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GOOD LUCK SPITFIRES

As Kent prepare for their first Lord's final in 11 years club captain Rob Key talks about just how important the game is for the county – See sport



TOWN HALL M&S DEAL LOSES £3M

Credit crisis blamed as property's value drops

THE old Marks and Spencer building in Margate is worth around £3 million LESS than Thanet council paid for it just over two years ago, it has been revealed.

Tory council chiefs, who brokered the deal using with a loan, are blaming the credit crunch which has caused plummeting property prices.

But they still maintain it was a bargain because of "its development potential".

Labour's David Green says council

■ BY TOM BETTS

leader Sandy Ezekiel admitted the loss at a recent council meeting.

The council purchased the High Street premises plus two other pieces of land after entering into a loan agreement with the South East England Development Agency in a £4.9 million deal sealed in March 2006.

Cllr Green – a member of the council's audit committee – admitted he was still unclear exactly how much this would affect council taxpayers in the area.

But he slammed the Conservative

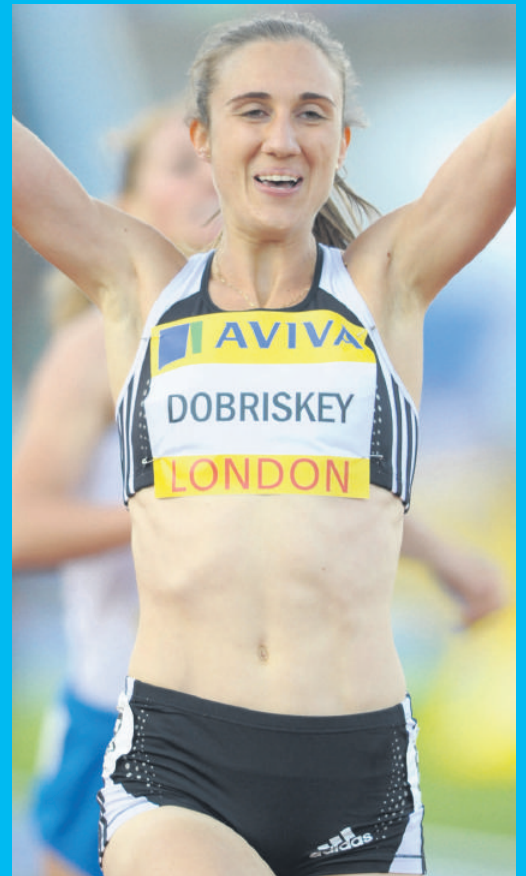
administration saying: "This appears to be a reckless and expensive adventure, with no sign yet of any gain for Margate or Thanet."

"They thought naively they knew better than the property market."

He said: "I have been unable so far to get a full picture of TDC's liabilities over this building."

"Cllr Ezekiel's response was to say that the site was re-valued at £2.75m in May 2006. It is generally accepted property values have dropped since then by about 20 per cent, probably more in Margate. This means the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



DEAR READERS...

MIDDLE distance runner Lisa Dobriskey is writing an exclusive daily diary for KOS Media during the Olympic Games.

The 24-year-old from Ashford is competing in the 1500m at Beijing, where she will look to add to the Commonwealth Games title she won in Melbourne two years ago.

See our sports pages to read her thoughts on the first few days in Team GB's training camp in Macau.

For the latest entries, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk throughout the Games.

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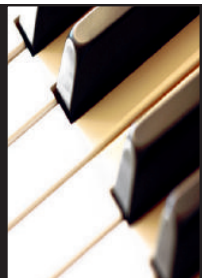


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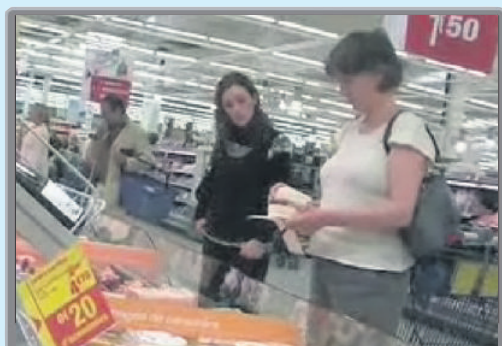
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1 Not a helicopter, but the new widescreen Astra. Steve Loader explains. See the motors channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



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3 Can you still bag a bargain in France? Julie Maddocks reports. See the business channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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Focusing on internet kids

■ BY TOM BETTS

FILM-MAKER Norman Thomas is setting about producing his latest work – and you can get involved.

The Broadstairs producer is eager to hear from anyone who may be able to help him with his quest to make a film about the online revolution and computer games.

With partner Christine Tongue, he is encouraging those from Thanet who could offer some insight into the impact technology has had on society to get in touch before he wraps it up.

He said: "We're looking for whole families – mums and dads and their children too – to tell us how the online revolution is affecting them."

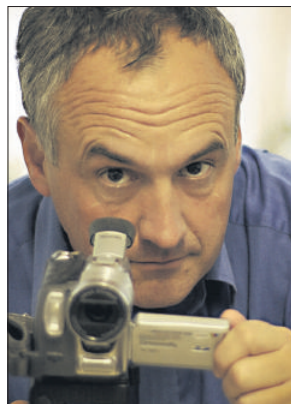
"Computers have had a huge impact on family life. Many parents are worried about what their children are up to on the internet."

More and more children and teenagers are spending time on the internet with the use of social networking sites such as Facebook, Bebo and MySpace becoming widespread, and the couple are investigating.

Virtual worlds such as Second Life and fantasy role-playing games like World of Warcraft and Warhammer, which are very time-consuming, also eat up millions of children's leisure time hours every week.

Mr Thomas said: "We want to explore the reality of this, to find out what's actually going on, and we hope families in Thanet will help us draw a fuller picture."

"New research shows that British



ONLINE VIEW: Producer Norman Thomas

children are spending more than 20 hours a week online, with 40 per cent of eight to 11-year-olds, and 71 per cent of 12 to 15-year-olds saying they browse the web on their own.

"In effect, some children are being raised online – so it's a major social issue. "We want to interview mothers and fathers about how they feel about what their children are doing and then give the children a chance to give their side of the story."

The programme, made by TV Choice, the company behind the Thanet Under Threat film, is being finalised now.

Families interested in taking part should ring Mr Thomas urgently on 01843 604 253.

Alternatively, email him at tv.choice@virgin.net.

Mother's plea after vicious attack on son

DETECTIVES are hunting a pair of muggers they suspect of attacking grammar school pupil Sam Eastwell early last Thursday.

Clarendon House sixth-former Sam is on a life support machine at the Royal London Hospital with severe head injuries after the vicious assault in Albion Place, Ramsgate.

Det Insp Andy Somerville, who is leading the hunt, believes the two youths carried out two attacks close by that evening.

Sam, 17, was robbed of two gold rings, his mobile phone and an MP3 player by thieves who left him lying on the pavement.

Earlier, two hooded men stole a Sekonda watch and a silver bracelet from another 17-year-old girl, a 17-year-old youth and an 18-year-old man in a bus shelter in Victoria Parade, just a few hundred yards from where Sam was beaten.

He was taken to the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate, for treatment.

They attacked a 17-year-old girl, a 17-year-old youth and an 18-year-old man in a bus shelter in Victoria Parade, just a few hundred yards from where Sam was beaten.

The 18-year-old was punched in the face as three mobile phones and cash were stolen from the trio.

One of the men was wearing a grey and yellow striped hooded top and both had dark jogging bottoms on. The other wore a light hoodie.

Both are aged 18 to 19 and are described as being slim and six feet.

One was bulkier than the other.

Sam's mum, Sharon, has appealed for witnesses to come forward. She described Sam as a popular lad with a wide circle of friends.

DI Somerville wants to talk to anyone who was in the park at Albion Place between 12.30am and 3am to contact him on 01843 231055.

Lisa's Beijing blog

RUNNER Lisa Dobrisky is writing an exclusive daily diary for KOS Media during the Olympic Games.

The 24-year-old from Ashford is competing in the 1500m at Beijing, where she will look to add to the Commonwealth Games title she won in Melbourne two years ago.

Turn to page 47 to read her thoughts on the first few days in Team GB's training camp in Macau. For the latest entries, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk <<http://www.kentnews.co.uk>> throughout the Games.

Seal pup rescued by divers

A BABY seal has been rescued from St Mildred's Bay.

A British Divers Marine Life Rescue team was called to the bay in Westgate-on-Sea on Saturday after the pup was seen looking for somewhere to beach.

The creature was wary of coming too close as onlookers had gathered and was becoming distressed.

Michelle Spain, a rescue team volunteer, said: "She had apparently been swimming from Minnis Bay and was looking for somewhere to rest, but because of the attention she was

attracting could not find anywhere safe.

"Eventually she beached on the slipway at St Mildred's Bay after we moved onlookers away.

"She was malnourished and very weak. It was sad as there were a lot of people keen to look at the seal and she was getting quite distressed."

The seal, dubbed Mildred, was later caught and transported to a rescue centre in Hastings.

There she will then be cared for before being released back into the sea when fit and well.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Saturday Observer or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Nav off! That's isle message to trucks

BY NICK AMES

A CAMPAIGN to get satellite navigation companies to make unsuitable roads "out of bounds" for heavy goods vehicles is gaining momentum.

And the problem is also more acute in Thanet's towns than any other places of comparable size in the county.

Main streets in Margate, Broadstairs and alongside Manston airport have all been highlighted as areas of concern after truckers are led by their sat-nav into tiny town streets.

It is caused mainly by continental truck drivers, particularly from eastern Europe.

The equipment highlights the major roads from Ramsgate's port up to London or the M25 via the M2 and A2.

But in many cases alternative access to the highways network is suggested via routes which are not designed to cope with large lorries.

Safety campaigners say foreign truckers do not have the local knowledge to realise these roads are unsuitable. Kerbs get destroyed, there is a threat to pedestrians and buildings have been damaged.

The plan by Kent Highways has extensive backing in villages such as Minster and Monkton where locals have complained about massive trucks using narrow streets as rat runs.

Traffic planners now say they want to identify roads which should be avoided for safety and environmental reasons so sat-nav companies can upload them onto a database.

This would then "red flag" them on navigation



LED ASTRAY: Sat-nav is directing unwary truckers down Thanet roads which are totally unsuitable for such large vehicles

equipment on board vehicles. A Kent Highways spokesman said: "The main purpose of the exercise is to get the sat-nav companies to put those roads identified as unsuitable for HGVs onto their databases and also to produce an up-to-date preferred lorry route map to be distributed to freight transport agencies."

"In addition, we wish to identify those streets where lack of signs or drivers ignoring signs are causing problems. This may lead to changes to or installation of signs or requests to the police for enforcement action."

The service has been contacting local parish authorities and other councils in an effort to ascertain where the major problems are.

Damaged roads in Margate include Nash Road, Broadley Road and Manston Court Road, while HGVs have been stuck along narrow Star Lane, causing traffic chaos.

Manston's affected areas include Alland Grange Lane, Preston Road and Spratling Road, while sat-navs continually suggest Shallows Road in Broadstairs – which has height restrictions for vehicles – as suitable for tall-sided lorries.

There are no signs in place for Reading Street, Broadstairs, where lorries have damaged the road surface, while the ones that are in place in Harbour Street are largely ignored. KCC has now put together a list of worst affected areas.

Bin rescue woman was dumped by boyfriend

A WOMAN had to be rescued from inside a charity clothing bin after her boyfriend dumped her belongings inside in a rage.

The 23-year-old became trapped after climbing into the bin outside the Sainsbury's supermarket in Broadstairs.

It is understood the unnamed lovers had a tiff at their flat and the boyfriend loaded his car with her favourite outfits and jewellery, headed to the store and dumped the lot.

The woman, from Canterbury, then raced to the shop in a desperate bid to retrieve the belongings.

She became trapped inside and began yelling for help. A passer-by dialled 999 and firefighters used hydraulic cutting equipment to free the red-faced woman, who managed to retrieve all her belongings.

A firefighter said: "It was an unusual shout. She looked very grateful when we got her out."

Suicide search?

AN investigation is underway into a "Reggie Perrin" style disappearance in which two sets of clothes were discovered on the beach at Margate.

Police are searching the land and lifeboats from Margate, Ramsgate and Whitstable have been alerted.

The first set of clothes was found on Monday evening and the other early on Tuesday.

An area to the west of the harbour has been sealed off.

In the Seventies comedy show Perrin staged his own beach suicide.

'It's worth more than we paid'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

council has lost nearly £3 million."

He added: "The loss negates any income from the controversial property disposals the Conservatives are pushing through at this time."

Cllr Ezekiel said: "The monies that David Green is referring to is for the building's book value."

"We bought the site for its development potential and had to be transparent with the owners over negotiations. As a development site, when purchased in my view it was worth far in excess of what we paid."

"A development brief was sent out for expression of interest and we were down to the final few, when, no thanks to the Labour government, we found banks were being squeezed and that finance were very much constrained."

He added: "Cllr Green is correct when he reveals that, thanks to this Labour government, homeowners businesses find themselves 20 per cent down on their equity and no signs of recovery."

"He forgets to mention the government introduced high business rates, along with the other higher employment costs that are forcing many businesses into bankruptcy."

The building is currently occupied by Turner Contemporary which uses it as a project space gallery to exhibit modern art.

The council make no money from it being there.

Properties will be sold to raise council cash

FOURTEEN Thanet council-owned properties are to be sold off.

Of the 16 sites that were originally designated for sale under its asset management plans, just two have been reprieved and one of those, Northdown House in Cliftonville, could still be sold if legal arguments to save it fail.

Despite emotional appeals and suggestions from the public, the council has decided to press ahead and sell all but two sites.

While it has been agreed as surplus to requirements, the dispute over Northdown House looks set to rumble on.

A decision on its future has been deferred until 2009/10.

A council official said: "This is so further legal research can be carried out on covenants and discussions held with those opposed to the sale about future possible use."

Matters were wrapped up at the council chamber in Margate on Thursday night.

Just one piece of land, at Knockholt in Cliftonville, has been spared outright.

The authority, which needs to find £544,000 before March to make up a budget shortfall, will make thousands from the sales.

The council blames soaring utility and fuel prices and factors such as the price of wheeled bins for the cash crisis. The future of the sites was put out to public consultation and a specially convened meeting, where those with an interest were allowed to speak, was held in July.

Cllr Roger Latchford, cabinet member for culture and economy, said: "The last few months have been an excellent example of listening to local people's views."

"We've taken on board what people have said and have adapted and changed proposals for the sites on the list for disposal."

"It's been useful to hear from residents about each of these sites and they've brought a number of new issues to us, which has been very helpful. I'd like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to have their say. They can rest assured that their views have been listened to and taken on board."

During the consultation, more than 200 letters and e-mails were received from local people while 250 people spoke at the extraordinary meeting.

A full list of the sites to be sold and amendments can be found at www.thanet.gov.uk.

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Soldier driven on by her mum's support

LIKE all parents of soldiers in Afghanistan, Kirsty Hamer's mum Sharon worries about her daughter being in a warzone.

However, she only has herself to blame – as it was her who suggested the idea of joining the Army to Private Hamer, 20, from Stanhope, Ashford.

Almost immediately after joining her unit in January, she was told she would be going to Afghanistan.

"It's exciting because you join the Army to do this," said the driver with the Royal Logistics Corps. "This is the real thing."

After leaving Christ Church school, Pte Hamer was unsure what to do for a career. "I had a couple of jobs, but I wasn't a very well-behaved teenager so I had to do something."

Her mother saw an advert for a course run by an ex-soldier for youngsters interested in joining the military and persuaded her daughter to go along.

Now, Pte Hamer is a driver at Kandahar airbase in southern Afghanistan and her duties include getting behind the wheel of ambulances.

Scottish family have their base in the city

FOR Andy Scott, as with most of the men of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots), his base in Canterbury is a long way from his Scottish homeland.

But Private Scott, 29, from Paisley, said he and his wife, Cheryl, love the cathedral city.

"I like Canterbury," he said. "It's a lovely city. It's scenic and there's quite a lot to do for families."

He has been based there for four-and-a-half years.

When he was last home in June, he and his wife celebrated the birth of their first child, Abbey. Pte Scott, who works in the supplies section at Camp Bastion, the main British base in Helmand Province, said he missed his daughter.

"My dad and wife sent pictures and videos, it's a wee bit hard," he said.

But he is able to speak to his wife every day on the phone and said the battalion organises activities to keep families at home busy.

Pte Scott has been in the Army for six years, serving in Bosnia and Iraq, but said the Afghan tour was probably the toughest.



ON TOUR: British forces are bringing stability to the area through their continued efforts, as explained to Jamie McGinnes by Capt Stevie Rae in the middle picture. Far right is the Sutherland Highlanders on parade before they were sent to Helmand Province in Afghanistan

Jamie McGinnes, the award-winning reporter from our sister paper Kent on Sunday, jetted into Afghanistan last week to get the lowdown on life on the frontline. In a special report filed from the notorious Helmand Province, McGinnes reveals what life is like for the Kent-based troops as they wage war against the Taliban.



WHEN soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots) were sent to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delhi, in southern Helmand Province, the outlook was bleak.

After travelling from Howe Barracks, Canterbury, in March, around 120 troops went straight into the action at the fortified outpost in Garmisr, near the small town of Darvisham.

"When A Company arrived at FOB Delhi,

the frontline was 200m away and they were fighting for the first two months – intense fighting," Captain Stevie Rae, spokesman for 5 Scots, explained. "Now, with the assistance of the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), the community are back in the town."

The arrival of the 2,000-strong American force was too much for the Taliban to handle.

Capt Rae said: "It wasn't long after 'A' Company arrived that MEU conducted their operation in the south. The Taliban were caught off guard and were clearly overwhelmed with the speed of ISAF (Inter-

Sergeant turns up the heat to acclimatise

JOGGING in temperatures in excess of 50C may seem like madness to Britons used to summers that are half as hot.

But for Sergeant Jamie Wright, 34, from Chatham, it helped him acclimatise to desert conditions in Afghanistan.

And the RAF flight operations manager at Kandahar airbase, who has previously been based in the Falklands, the Gulf and Cyprus, waits until it is hottest.

"The heat's fine – I go running in it," he said. "I have to run at the hottest times of the day to get acclimatised."

Sgt Wright's job is an important – and sensitive – one. He briefs RAF flight crews on

routes they can take and warns them of potential trouble spots.

"The picture changes all the time," he said. "It's a daily cycle of new information."

As well as military personnel and freight, the aircraft he works with often carry dignitaries, visitors include defence secretary Des Browne and Tory leader David Cameron.

Kandahar airbase has previously been under rocket attack by insurgents. No-one has been hit, but they have still caused alarm.

"There are natural worries when you get rocketed, but that's all quietened down now," said Sgt Wright.



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Life back to normal

national Security Assistance Force) troops." As a result, life for civilians in the area has begun returning to normal.

"Businesses have opened, shops are trading, people are back in their houses and farmers in the fields," said Capt Rae. "This is something we didn't expect to see in six months. For us it's massive progress."

Around 550 soldiers from 5 Scots were sent to Afghanistan in March. As part of Battle Group North West, they are spread around an area covering 100,000sq miles, where 100,000 people live.

At Now Zad, 60 miles north of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah, 5 Scots have been working with Estonian troops.

In the town of Musa Qala, recaptured from the Taliban in December with the help of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment, Delta Company have been involved in "surge operations", hunting out the Taliban. The town, which is also home to the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and US Marine Corps, has seen rocket and mortar attacks, small arms fire and suicide bombings.

The Argylls' B Company - about 120 soldiers - are in Lashkar Gah.

FOB Edinburgh, 7km from Musa Qala, is home to more of 5 Scots, as well as Kentish soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment.

Capt Rae said the isolation of the outpost meant it was formidable to attack: "It's so far from civilisation that if anyone's going to attack we can see them for kilometres."

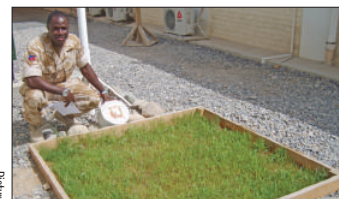
The main threats to the base, which was only built at the start of this year, are improvised explosive devices, rockets or mortars, but it has not been targeted, said Capt Rae.

The Kent battalion's tour of Helmand has not been without setbacks, however.

At the end of June, Lance Corporal James "Jimmy" Johnson, 31, who grew up in



Picture: MARK OWENS



Nurturing the green, green grass of home

TROOPS have turned a small corner of Kandahar airbase into a green haven.

Lance Corporal Ernest Tabi, 29, from Welling, helped create the square of grass, as well as a flag and rockery - the only one of its kind at the desert-locked site in Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan.

A previous attempt to grow grass donated by Australian soldiers failed, but seeds given by Afghans have taken hold. However, the blades have to be watered every morning to keep them alive.

LCpl Tabi, an administrator with 6 Supply Regiment, said: "It's the only bit of green we see around here. It's something nice to look at and reminds us of home."

Although it is 20km from Kandahar City, the airbase's isolated setting has not spared it from the insurgents. Recent weeks have been quiet, but there were 40 attacks in two-months at the start of the summer.

Chatham, was killed while part of a vehicle checkpoint patrol in the Lashkar Gar area.

And the battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Richmond, was shot in the leg during a firefight near Musa Qala. He was the most senior British casualty since the 2001 invasion.

Speaking in March, he said his battalion's job was to "disrupt" the Taliban: "It is about progress. We're not going to win the Afghan campaign in our six months."

The Argylls are due to return to Canterbury in September.

Brave private tells of an 'annoying' attack

PRIVATE Josh Alder, 19, from Rainham, arrived in Afghanistan in May and in mid-June was called out from Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, near Musa Qala, to help clear Taliban fighters.

Working alongside Afghan National Army soldiers, about 100 US Marines, and supported by troops from 5 Scots, they began their 'advance to contact' at about midnight. The mission did not end until 24 hours later.

In the face of a show of force against which they stood no chance, the Taliban retreated north. As the British troops trekked after them, the mood became more tense when intercepted radio chatter revealed the Taliban were preparing an ambush.

"They were saying, 'the RPGs (rocket-propelled grenade launchers) and AKs are ready for the British' and that they could see us only 200 metres away," said Pte Alder, who is in a reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment. However, the sound of gunfire elsewhere revealed the Taliban had mistaken the US Marines for British soldiers.

Pte Alder continued the Americans radioed in an air strike.

That night, Pte Alder and the other soldiers moved into the desert and camped out before returning to base.

During a later mission to search villages near Musa Qala, thought to be harbouring Taliban fighters, soldiers found a bomb-making factory. After paying a family they commandeered their home for the night - and were attacked. The assault began with an RPG exploding over their heads, followed by machine gun fire.

"We'd been working 18 hours solid and we were starting to relax, so it was quite annoying," said Pte Alder.



He took cover in the family's prayer room and some of the soldiers were ordered on top of the compound to return fire, backed up by Warrior armoured vehicles.

The battle went on for 45 minutes before artillery was called in.

"That dropped 15 high explosive shells on the village and that was it. That stopped them," explained Pte Alder.

The former Brompton College pupil joined the Army at the age of 16 two years ago.

"The days are long, you carry a lot of equipment, it stretches you mentally and trying to stay alert all the time is hard," he said.

While outside their base, soldiers are expected to carry on average about 80lbs of kit, not including their weapons, which themselves can weigh more than 30lbs.

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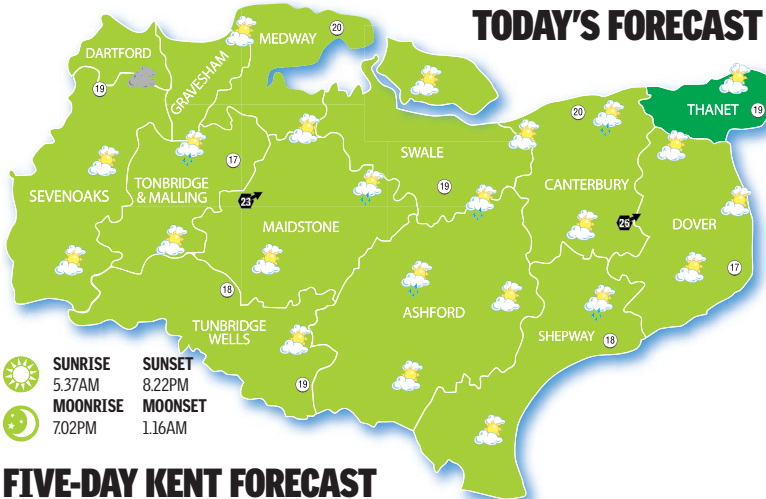
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TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:05pm	5.2m
	Sunday	12:51pm	5.5m
Dover	Saturday	10:36am	5.8m
	Sunday	11:13am	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:21am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:07am	6.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:06am	4.4m
	Sunday	11:43am	4.6m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:54am	5.0m
	Sunday	12:40pm	5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:53am	4.8m
	Sunday	12:40pm	5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Gravesend	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Canterbury	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Maidstone	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Chatham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Ramsgate	20°C	19°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dartford	21°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Dover	18°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C
Folkestone	18°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	Tonbridge	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Tun Wells	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	19°C	Madrid	31°C
Athens	30°C	New York	26°C
Barcelona	30°C	Paris	22°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	26°C	Sydney	13°C
Cape Town	22°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	30°C
Gibraltar	30°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	23°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	11°C

Tower crunch meeting off for council talks

A MUSEUM is still in limbo after a meeting to decide its future was adjourned.

The museum at Crampton's Tower in Broadstairs faces closure and a public meeting to try and resolve the issue was called for Pierremont Hall. It was due to take place on Monday but has been put back to September 1.

Volunteer Peter Shaw said: "Cllr Zita Wiltshire, who is a member of both Broadstairs Town Council and Thanet council, has announced that the issue was due to be heard in a cabinet meeting. So for that reason the town council felt it couldn't make any decisions if there was some new information or initiative going to be put forward by them."

He added: "If they are to start talking about it again then they must be thinking about it again. One can only believe that they are having second thoughts... maybe. There is supposed to be a decision handed down in mid September."

The tower was built by Thomas Crampton, the influential engineer who lived in Broadstairs for many years and has been a cultural hub in the town for many years.

The facility is well used by community groups and societies as well as schools for educational purposes.

Win free waste pick up

PEOPLE who sign up to the council's green waste scheme in the next three months will be entered into a prize draw.

The winner will have their waste collected for free until April, 2009.

The prize is aimed at encouraging people to sign up for the scheme and every resident who joins in August, September and October will automatically be entered, along with everyone who is already signed up.

Almost 3,000 people have now joined the scheme, which started in mid April.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANDY GARLAND



Q How did you get into DJ-ing?

A Through an old friend whose dad ran a venue called the Cellar Club in my home town in Devon. Originally they had a jukebox but in 1980 or '81 they brought in a disco and when the club was closed we used to sneak down there and get the lighting rig going and play tunes when no one was around.

Two Tone was really big then and we used to play Madness, The Selecter, The Beat, Bodysnatchers and stuff like that...

Q Do you think you are lucky to be doing what you do?

A Luck certainly played a part but there was also a lot of hard graft too. When I first started I was doing a Saturday sports show on hospital radio.

I also used to do DJ-ing on a Friday night then get up at 7am to do a delivery round for the local butcher, go and do a couple of hours as a lifeguard before driving 35 miles to the hospital do my afternoon show.

Then I'd drive all the way back home before setting off to my next gig in the evening. I'd get back from that at about 3am absolutely shattered ready to do an early lifeguard shift the next day. I'd then drive 40 miles down to BBC Radio Devon to take part in their youth show, all unpaid of course, before getting home at about 2am the next day... everyone knew not to call me on a Monday morning!

Having said that it's a buzz when the red light comes on, and don't let anyone tell you

talking and playing music for a living is a bad job – they'd be fibbing. Mind you my mum still thinks I'm going to get a proper job one day!

Q What would you be doing with your life if not this?

A I'd probably just be finishing a glorious professional football career with Manchester United and England, and be considering a move into management.

Q Where do you see yourself in five years time?

A Happy, most importantly, and living in Kent with my family. From a work point of view we're encouraged to learn new skills at the BBC, so perhaps there's a chance to do some camera work for TV.

Q Do you have any favourite parts of Kent?

A I was a student in Canterbury so I'll always have a soft spot for the cathedral city and in particular the New Inn on Havelock Street. Joss Bay on the coast is gorgeous, I can easily while away the hours browsing in Baggins bookshop in Rochester and finally I think Chartwell just outside Westerham has a very special atmosphere.

Q How much preparation goes into an average show?

A There's an old rule in radio that suggests for every minute you're on the air you should spend two minutes preparing... it's not

a bad bit of advice. On the Big Drive Home I'm in at 11am and on air at 4pm, and very often could do with another hour or two! There's even more preparation for an outside broadcast or special event.

Q What is your greatest achievement?

A From a work point of view, I think getting my masters degree in media management while holding down a full time presenting job took a great deal of discipline and endeavour. Although I'm glad I did it I wouldn't want to do it again – and if you're thinking of doing something similar you need very understanding friends and family.

Q What are your hobbies and interests?

A Surfing is up there at number one, although I don't have much chance to get in the water these days I really enjoy it when I do... when there's six feet of water bearing down on you, it focuses the mind quite quickly. I'm still attempting to play football at my ripe old age, and you can find me driving and tinkering with my Morris Minor (Just until I get my Jensen interceptor). To relax I get down on my allotment and waste time nattering to people when I should be digging or weeding.

Q What five words sum you up?

A Creative, enthusiastic, passionate, pragmatic and green-fingered!

The BBC Radio Kent DJ talks to **Tom Betts** about his luck and hard work securing such a job on the airwaves, his mum's hopes for his career, and why surfing the waves is his perfect way to unwind.

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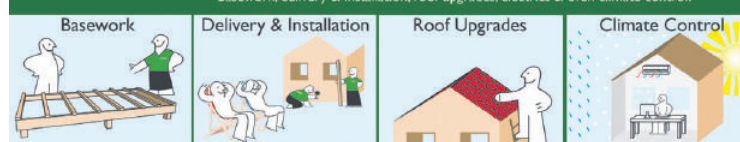


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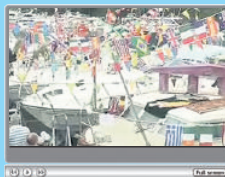
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Relive the sights and sounds of this year's fun-packed Maidstone River Festival. Search 'river'



What happened when the country's largest collection of shire horses came to town. Search 'shire'



Hundreds made a splash as they took to the seas for the Folkestone Festival raft race. Search 'raft'



Local band Purity joined the star-studded line-up at Quex Park last month - see them perform. Search 'quex'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Farmland bucking market downturn

BY ED HILL

HOUSE prices may be crumbling due to the credit crunch, but farmland prices are digging their heels in and remaining buoyant.

And that will provide some good news for those making a living off the land as prices for good quality areas show no sign of slowing.

According to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, farmland in the South East jumped by 24 per cent in the first half of this year.

The price of good quality arable land is fetching around £14,500 per hectare. It was previously going for around £10,000 and pasture is being sold at about £9,000.

The steep rise in price of productive farm land is due to the rise of commodities such as wheat and sugar. Farmland is now an attractive investment for major corporations, particularly as demand for food grows ever stronger from countries such as India and China.

Trevor Hines from the RICS said: "Ever-rising commodity prices have pushed the price of farmland to record highs as farmers and investors compete for arable land."

However, the demand for land from big investors is making it tougher for smaller farms to survive.

The number of farms sales has increased by 50 per cent according to the rural market survey carried out by the institute.

The uncertain future of agriculture has also meant a marked drop in so-called lifestyle buyers looking to leave the city to enjoy a rural way of life.

Mr Hines added: "However, the days of the lifestyle buyer are on the wane. The rise of the credit crunch is putting an end to city expansion into the country as the precarious financial situation has made city slickers re-think their lifestyle priorities."

Richard Thomas from the Chartered surveyors Humberts in Challock said: "We predicted residential farm prices stabilising in our figures last December. This appeared to be correct. Amenity and residential buyers are on the back foot after the credit crunch for all but the most competitively priced units. Bare land is holding up but farmers are rattled by the huge jump in input costs."



GROWING CONCERN: Farmland for sale near the village of Wye could now get a better price

Everyday low petrol prices, says chamber

THE Thanet and East Kent Chamber's petrol price index shows the cost of the fuel on the isle is beginning to level out from its record high just a few weeks ago.

The Broadstairs Petrol Price Index is an off-beat way of monitoring the inflation devised by the chamber's chief executive David Foley earlier in the year.

He said: "Since this chamber started the Broadstairs Petrol Price Index in May, we have witnessed some alarming projections showing a rise of over 70 per cent in the price of a litre of unleaded petrol. The markets have now calmed and the index currently stands at BPI Tracker: 3.6 per cent BPI Annual: 14.5 per cent."

He added: "Comforting though this may be, it still shows a rise of 3.6 per cent since early May and a projected annual increase of 14.5 per cent."

Last month the major supermarkets announced that they would be lowering the price of fuel after prices reached record highs.

Mr Foley introduced his system to monitor the inflation on fuel on the isle because he thought prices were unreasonably high, especially when compared to other districts in Kent.

He also has noted that of the supermarkets, Asda is a cheaper place to get your petrol than its larger competitor, Tesco.

He said: "What is disturbing for those who buy their petrol in Thanet is that a litre of unleaded petrol at Tesco Broadstairs Extra currently costs 114.9p, whereas at Asda Canterbury it is a more modest 111.9p. We can conclude that Asda's 'Everyday low prices' is outperforming Tesco's 'Every little helps'."

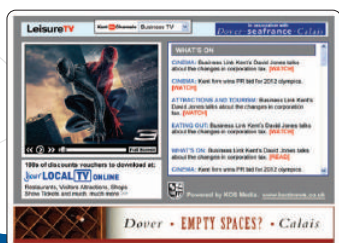
If prices had continued to rise at the rate they had been, a whopping £8.50 per litre could have been reached at the pumps, according to Mr Foley's calculations.

At one stage it was rising by around 3p in the space of a fortnight, more than 1p per week.

Mr Foley has based his new system on the Mars Bar Index, first used by journalist Nico Colchester.

He said: "It took into account the price of a Mars bar against the price of a car in 1950, and the price of a bar against a car in 1975, 1981 and so on. It turned out to be a more reliable and more interesting indicator of your actual buying power. I used that as a model and thought, 'let's see if we can do that with Tesco'."

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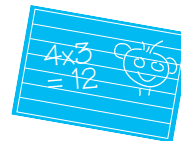
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University's just a phone call away

TOMORROW is make or break day for 18-year-olds with the release of the A-level results.

Many students will automatically have secured a place at their university of choice – but for some their results will not be as expected and they face the prospect of clearing to get their uni place.

The advice is simple: DONT PANIC. But be prepared to make the call within hours of learning your results. Popular courses can fill up in one day, but preparation is the key.

John Slater, Canterbury Christ Church University's director of admissions, said: "If your exam results are not quite what you expected, do not worry, but you do need to plan your strategy."

"Check with your 'firm' choice to see if they have accepted you. Sometimes you will find they lower the number of points asked for and will still accept you."

"If they are not prepared to do this, you need to check whether your insurance offer has been confirmed. If not, you need to enter the clearing process."

He said students should make a note of the courses they are interested in and start contacting the universities about them.

"Have your UCAS application number, clearing entry number and a list of your grades to hand when you telephone the university," he added.

Lecturers and students at the University of Greenwich at Medway's clearing centre were expecting a record number of calls from school and college leavers this year.

People changing their careers and mature students who want to start a degree in the new academic year also end up going through the process, the university said.

Specially trained students, including those who went through clearing, work on clearing hotlines at universities across the country.

Jessica Lewis, who set up the University of

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

Greenwich at Medway's clearing centre, said: "Our aim is to give the vast majority of applicants a decision or offer during the course of their first phone call to us."

Beverley Woodhams, from the university, said she has matched hundreds of students to courses through clearing when their grades have been lower than they expected.

She told students not to be stressed because there are far more places to study than there are students, she said:

"Remember, it's a buyers' market and you hold the currency."

Each year 30,000 people gain a place during clearing, which closes on Friday, September 12. UCAS said vacancies on its website will be updated continually throughout the period.

At Hadlow College Neil Lakeland said students should not give up

their dreams and there are plenty of career opportunities for those who take the time to look.

He said: "Entry onto our foundation degrees starts at just 80 UCAS points, with honours degrees from 160 UCAS points. This means people can still get a good degree in a land-based field and ultimately achieve a good career. Even if you can't get your first choice, I'd advise students to take a careful look – they will be surprised at the range."

Steve Holdcroft, Canterbury's head of information, recruitment and admissions, offered further advice, including being flexible when looking at courses and picking one that is related to subjects chosen at school. He warned that places on popular courses are filled by mid-morning on results day and advised students not to delay calling.

Admissions officers are also more likely to be impressed by students who have thought about what they want and prepared questions to ask, he added.

CASE STUDY: LAST-MINUTE APPLICATION

LUCY Hall, who has just completed the first year of her creative events course at the University of Kent, had to apply to study through clearing after making a late decision to study for a degree.

She said she felt the UCAS website was helpful and told her what she needed to do and how to complete an application.

The 19-year-old said: "I believe Kent saw my potential, even though my A-levels



were slightly lower than expected."

"If you don't get the grades, or if you decide to apply last-minute, you can still succeed," she added.

"Everyone I spoke to during clearing was helpful and efficient."

"It wasn't stressful at all. But I would recommend being well prepared for the day clearing starts (on Thursday), and being persistent does you no harm either."

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CLEARING HOTLINES AND WEBSITES

University of Greenwich at Medway: 0800 005 006 and www.gre.ac.uk

University of Greenwich Guide to Clearing is available online – see inside last Sunday's Kent on Sunday e-edition at www.kentnews.co.uk

The UCAS helpline is on 0871 468 0468 or visit www.ucas.com for course vacancy listings

Hadlow College: Main information line 0500 551434 www.hadlow.ac.uk

University of Kent: www.kent.ac.uk/clearing

Canterbury Christ Church University: www.canterbury.ac.uk/courses/clearing

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in on the Isle of Thanet...



I'll never understand rubbish idea of fortnightly collections

GOING green and saving the planet is an irritating business for most of us – but for the council staff employed to oversee our rubbish disposal, it remains a cause of excitement and gives them purpose.

It means more rules that they can apply. It means more burden on already financially stretched council tax payers and – better than that – it means they can even send people nasty letters if they accidentally stick a bit of cardboard in with glass for recycling.

Young spotty leaving some former polytechnic with his useless degree could never have expected his job in waste management to have led him to such a plethora of exciting powers that he could chuck about and make him feel like a man. And he knows he'll have some recycling zealots backing him up, no matter how stupid the rubbish rules become.

Recycling zealots are of course more irritating than the anti-smoking brigade.

They celebrate their separation techniques,

tell you how they wash tins cans and rinse milk cartons before placing them in the right box.

Well I say get a life. I don't want to be cleaning old packaging just so somebody else can sort it without getting dry tuna on their rubber glove. I do not have the time. That is why I pay my council tax.

But wait, I am sure there are those of you reading this who think recycling is exciting, necessary and the only way ahead.

I ask you just to support me on one thing...

There is no excuse – on this earth – for fortnightly food waste collections. Food waste smells and rots. It is a health hazard. It attracts vermin. But no matter what EU imposed rules councils claim they are forced to follow to meet recycling targets, we still need to have our food waste bins emptied. Weekly.

The wheelie bins provided by our council are hopeless, far too small for a normal family. Our dustmen are a reasonable bunch of blokes doing a crap job most of us would prefer not to. Why, though, if there is an extra bag of rubbish alongside the wheelie bin do they just leave it?

Worse than that, if you miss putting your

bins out, it means you could end up with a food that is a month old by the time it's collected.

In an effort to escape this outrage I made the trip to the council dump last weekend to chuck ordinary dustbin waste into a huge machine, labelled 'household waste'. Fantastic. No sorting, no recycling, no worrying whether they notice the dead plant from the garden. Gone.

So, recycling's all well and good when I have the time. But I don't, so I'll pay others to do it.

Go ahead, guys, save the planet, but come the next council elections I shall support the councillor, and party, which promises to reinstate the weekly waste collection.

CORRECTION: Comments and suggestions for the council's Dog Control Orders can be sent to the authority as part of a consultation. Thanet council want to change the hours which dogs can be walked on beaches and plan to introduce bans between the hours of 10am to 6pm from May 15 to September 15. They are keen to hear the public's view.

The email address given in last week's blogger column was incorrect and all emails must go to hannah.thorpe@thanet.gov.uk. Letters can be sent to Thanet District Council, PO Box 9, CT9 1XZ. Correspondence must be in by August 29.

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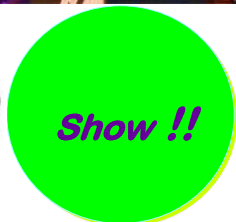
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EMAIL: Email us your letters to us at yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

Time to reveal who has received money

AMID the furore over China Gateway at Manston, the Freedom of Information Act should be used to make Thanet council disclose if any taxpayers' money is being given to the development, or to any of its occupiers, from either local regeneration funds, EU grants from Brussels, KCC or Seeda.

Any commercial enterprise setting up business around or near Manston airport, which is designated a European regional airport, could qualify for big amounts of 'free cash' under the EU's Developing Economies of Airport Regions programmes.

These programmes are implemented across the EU, and British taxpayers have already given countless billions of pounds towards the upgrading and development of regional airports across the entire European Union.

Perhaps we should also know if any taxpayers' money has been given to other commercial enterprises that have recently been built there.

Roger Arnold
UK Independence Party

O'Donnell cutting his cloth to fit all

IT appears to me that Gerry O'Donnell of Ramsgate First wants to be all things to all people.

First he stood as a candidate for Thanet District Council in 2007, while at the same time saying that Ramsgate should come first.

Then he tells us in an article in Yourthanet that he wants to be an MP for Thanet South, which includes the towns of Sandwich and Cliftonville.

And we read he also wants to hold a referendum for an elected Mayor of Thanet.

This is all very well, but it appears to me that Mr O'Donnell wants to have his cake and eat it.

If he really thinks the people of Sandwich and Cliftonville are going to vote for someone who wants to put Ramsgate first, and then possibly, at the same time, try to become Thanet's first elected 'super mayor' he must, in my opinion, believe that the residents Ramsgate are totally naive.

Charles Goddard
Westgate-on-Sea

Concentrating on the real job at hand

I SHOULD like to correct your correspondent, Robert Muir of Westgate (Yourthanet letters, August 6) about his comment "even at the parish-pump level, politics is never free from party dogma".

I cannot speak for other parishes, but certainly here in Acol there is no political influence at all.

Parish councillors do not declare themselves 'independent' as, in my opinion, this is just another political party with no allegiance to any of the other parties.

We declare ourselves apolitical, as we do not allow any politics, let alone

'party dogma', to rear its ugly head.

It is my personal belief that there should be no place for politics in local government, whether it be at parish, district or county level.

Those elected to serve the interests of their voters should concentrate on doing just that and should not be spending public money and much of their time in office scoring political points from their opponents.

Cllr Sheila Bransfield
Chairwoman of Acol Parish Council

'Independent' who hides behind a label

May I respectfully correct Yourthanet correspondent Charles Goddard of Westgate-on-Sea that, contrary to his comments about me, I am not a member of the Labour Party, nor do I have friend

Last week's letter from Mr Robert Muir

Making a declaration of independence

IN last week's Yourthanet, correspondent Robert Muir raised the issue of Independents on the council.

This puts me in a quandary: at the district elections in May 2007, I stood as a Liberal Democrat candidate. I and other party members hand-delivered thousands of leaflets informing the residents that I was a Liberal Democrat.

As the parish and district council elections were taking place in the same ward concurrently, I could not

put myself down as an Independent on the nomination form for the parish election when residents were being told that I was a Liberal Democrat for the district election.

So in future, should I declare myself as an Independent in parish council elections?

I may stand a better chance of getting elected by 'pulling the wool' over the eyes of the public – just as a few of our current parish councillors have done by getting elected as an Independent.

Bill Furness
Birchington Liberal Democrats

Pair are cementing a reputation on isle

ALL this furore over political new boy John Worrow is distracting attention from the real stars of the show – Thanet council leader Sandy Ezekiel and his deputy Roger Latchford, who are doing a wonderful job making the isle practically uninhabitable for the rest of us.

This pair won't rest until every last blade of grass in Thanet is built over – just as long as the developers are happy, eh, boys?

Mick Davies
Broadstairs

Actions would speak louder than words

I NOTE that Thanet South MP Dr Steve Ladyman states that his constituency goes out to Sandwich and surrounding villages.

What has he done in his time as an MP about the eyesore of a

derelict power station that spoils one of the best views in Thanet?

If the company that owns the land doesn't clear it, other authorities should step in – and then charge the cost to the owner.

That would be real regeneration, Thanet council, KCC and MPs...

Adrian Ottley
Birchington

Dr Ladyman is just so out of touch

I write regarding a recent article in the local press by Dr Stephen Ladyman, Labour MP for South Thanet.

I was amazed to read that Dr Ladyman blames what he calls 'the Tory media' for the fact many residents feel gloomy about the economy.

So, Stephen, I guess it's not because Gordon Brown has lost the financial plot and that people are now starting to pay for it?

Try to tell the retired residents in my Birchington ward that it's the media they should blame for the current situation and see what response you get. It appears to me that you are no longer in touch with the people of Thanet.

The fact you recently came out as supporting Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister who nobody ever wanted, tells us everything.

In your recent article you wrote "once the current problems are behind us we will continue on track to become the world's richest county".

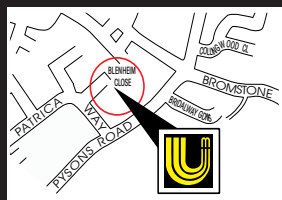
Although this would be nice, I do wonder what you take us for.

Cllr John Worrow,
Birchington PC member & Conservative campaigner



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INSPIRATION: Barry Manilow's popular songs form the basis for the new musical Can't Smile Without You, starring Chesney Hawkes

Barry is the one and only

Chesney Hawkes performs in Manilow tribute

KENT theatregoers will witness the world premiere of new Barry Manilow musical *Can't Smile Without You*.

Former pop star Chesney Hawkes plays the lead role in the show, which celebrates the timeless songs that have made Manilow such a well-loved performer all over the world. Featuring some of his most popular tracks, including *Mandy*, *It's a Miracle*, *Could It Be Magic* and the Grammy Award-winning *Copacabana*, it should be an unmissable treat for any fan.

The hits are strung along a storyline about a young band in search of fame, who are offered the chance to audition for the latest reality TV show. Lead singer Tony (Hawkes) is given the opportunity of a lifetime when he is asked to appear on the show, but a tragic accident ruins his plans. Tony is left with no memory, just his love of music and his feelings for a girl he once knew called Mandy – with the help of these lifelines, can he get his life back on track?

Following his starring role in the 1991 film *Buddy's Song*, Hawkes released soundtrack song *The One and Only*, which became the 20th most successful single of the 90s. He has since become a songwriter and is in demand as a performer on the university circuit, as well as appearing on Channel 4's reality show *The Games* and ITV's *Hit Me Baby One More Time*.



his 13th birthday.

The boy went on to perform locally before enrolling at the New York College of Music and The Juilliard School under his mother's maiden name Manilow, Edna having legally changed both their surnames by this point.

His 1964 marriage to childhood sweetheart Susan Diexler foundered two years later under the strain of his musical ambitions. Manilow was working as a commercial jingles writer and singer well into the 70s, including campaigns for *Bowlene Toilet Cleaner*, *Kentucky Fried Chicken* and *McDonalds*.

His association with singer Bette Midler began in 1970 and his debut self-titled album was released in 1973. Since then he has sold more than 76 million records worldwide and has been named the Number One Adult Contemporary Artist by industry newspaper *Radio & Records*. He has been the headline act at the Las Vegas Hilton since 2005, continuing to entertain fans from all over the world.

Tickets for *Can't Smile Without You* are priced from £21 to £33. To book call 0870 060 6620 or visit www.churchilltheatre.co.uk.

The show will also be at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from September 8 to 13.

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU

Thursday to Saturday,
August 28-September 6
The Churchill Theatre, Bromley



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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



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GENERATE

Running until Sunday, August 31
Turner Contemporary,
Droit House, Margate

THE creativity of children and the effect it can have on artist parents is explored in the Turner Contemporary's latest exhibition.

Generate is the second exhibition in a series by local artists who spent time working with and learning from their children.

The idea came about when the artists collectively wondered if children and parents learn from each other's creativity and whether the youngsters can influence the much more experienced artists' practice.

The experiment has resulted in a display of preparatory drawings, sculptures and installations along with some uncompleted work, which has been left unfinished.



ished to highlight the development of ideas.

Artist and parent Ian Bottle, who is taking part in the show, described it as "an invitation to see how creative ideas have been developed and what happens when child and parent work

together simultaneously."

Parents and children are invited to take part in the next workshop, which runs at Droit House from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, August 30.

For details call 01843 280261 or see www.turnercontemporary.org.

THANET LEISURE

Seaside fun for kids is promised at play club

CHILDREN can learn more about life by the seaside with Thanet Coast Project's Summer Club.

The free play scheme, which runs until August 29, offers children a variety of exciting activities such as rockpool rambles, seashore discovery workshops and sand sculpture. Youngsters aged five to 16 can learn all about the coast and marine wildlife.

For details of all Thanet Coast Project activities visit www.thanetcoast.org.uk.

Take a colourful tour of this lovely village

DISCOVER the fascinating past of St Peter's with a guided village tour.

Walk through the centuries and meet costumed characters from the village's past, from a nun and a monk to genteel ladies and gentlemen. The next walk will be held at 1.45pm tomorrow should take about two and a half hours.

The tour is less than a mile of flat walking and includes a break for a drink. Booking is essential, call 01843 871200 or visit www.villagetour.co.uk.

Band to make a real Hullabaloo over dinner

POPULAR swing band Hullabaloo will be performing at The Minnis Bar & Restaurant in Birchington tomorrow.

The four-piece band plays jazz, jive and swing along with its own original take on pop. Find out more about them by visiting <http://hullabaloo-uk.com>.

The show is for diners only. For more details call the restaurant on 01843 841844 or see www.theminnis.co.uk.

Musicians to perform a spanking good show

HEAR the songs of Dusty Springfield and Stevie Wonder being given a new lease on life in the hands of Spanking Llamas.

The band will also be performing tracks by greats such as Aretha Franklin and James Brown at The Rose in Albion Street, Broadstairs, on Friday.

They play funk, rock, soul and disco songs and give them their own special treatment.

For more details about the venue call The Rose on 01843 861917.

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ROLE PLAY

Wednesday to Saturday, August 13-16
Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, Broadstairs

AN ENGAGEMENT party is thrown into chaos when the happy couple receive some unexpected visitors, in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy Role Play.

Mismatched couple Justin and Julie-Ann have invited their respective parents to meet each other for the first time over dinner, with the aim of announcing their intention to marry. But the meticulously planned evening begins to fall apart when a lap

dancer falls onto Justin's balcony from the flat above. On the run from her violent boyfriend, she is soon pursued by her dimwit minder who refuses to let her out of his sight.

Now stuck with two very unwelcome guests, the couple must also cope with the arrival of Julie-Ann's right-wing father and Justin's alcoholic mother. Relationships will never be the same as the crazy situation throws light on their true desires.

Performances start at 7.30pm daily with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets cost £10 for club members and £12 for non-members. To book call the box office on 0845 262 6263.



ONSLAUGHT

Saturday, August 16
West Coast Bar, Margate

LEGENDARY metal band Onslaught visits Thanet for the first time this weekend, 25 years after the group first rocked the industry.

The band began life in 1983 and two years later they secured a record deal, their debut album Power From Hell becoming a hit with the emerging thrash

underground. Some of the tracks were to become thrash metal anthems, including Death Metal, which was possibly the first ever use of the term.

With new vocalist Sy Keeler, they released highly acclaimed album The Force - considered by many to be the definitive Onslaught album - and their fame went international. But when Keeler was sacked by London Records and the next, more polished album

was rejected by die-hard fans, tracks began to dip and the band split in 1991.

Fifteen years later they were back together and, with Keeler at the microphone, fans can now see Onslaught in their full glory. Local band Panic Cell will provide the main support, while Isolation will open the show.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £8. To reserve call 07530 795612 or email streetvoiceuk@yahoo.co.uk.

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Saturday 30 August
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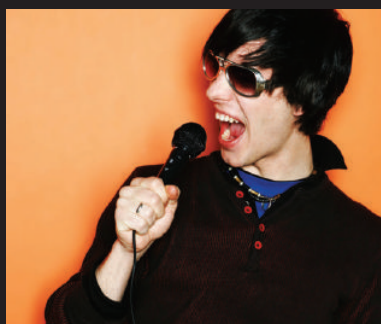
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All Drinks £2.50
9pm-11pm
Strictly over 21s.
Sunday Nights
90s Night. All drinks £1.50
between 9pm and 11pm.
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Thursday 14 August
Jeepster
Thursday 21 August
Taste This
Thursday 28 August
Police Squad
(Police Tribute Band)

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High Street, Margate
Tel: 01843 223578
Excellent home-cooked
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Monday to Saturday
12pm-2.30pm with five
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Live music on the last
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Drinks £1.50 all night
Karaoke & Nintendo Wii
Games Night
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THANET SHOPPING

Harry Potter fans count down the days to book

J K ROWLING'S new book, *Tales of Beedle the Bard*, will be out in just over 100 days and is available to pre-order at Waterstones.

The book once again delves into the world of Harry Potter and includes five stories, *The Tale of the Three Brothers*, *The Fountain of Fair Fortune*, *The Warlock's Hairy Heart*, *The Wizard and the Hopping Pot*, and *Babbitty Rabbitty and her Cackling Stump*.

It includes an introduction and illustrations by the author, with notes from Professor Albus Dumbledore.

Visit www.waterstones.com to reserve your copy for just £3.49.

Navigate your way to a big saving at Halfords

AVOID going in the wrong direction with some help from Halfords.

The store is selling Nuvi 200 Sat Nav systems by Garmin for just £89.99.

It features a lithium-ion battery with up to 4 hours of battery life, the Garmin Lock anti-theft feature, touch screen interface and a host of other applications such as USB slots. Other systems on offer include Tom Tom Explore UK Sat Nav at £109 and Tom Tom Go 520 with traffic updates for £169.99.

Navigate to Halfords at Westwood Cross or see www.halfords.com.

There's a good deal in store on beach wear

MARKS and spencer is offering 30 per cent of beach wear this week.

The store at Westwood Cross, is helping holiday makers stock up on some essentials with casual shorts, bikinis and tops all at reduced prices. Shoppers can get a range of styles of bikinis from £15, Per Una splash trim shorts for £25 and Per Una denim shorts for £29.50.

For more information see in store or visit www.marksandspencer.com.

There's no excuse for men to not look great

MEN can enjoy huge savings on tops, trousers and shirts this week thanks to Burton's summer sale.

The chain, which has branches at Westwood Cross as well as in Ramsgate and Margate, has men's T-shirts and tops for as little as £7. Suits are from £39, jeans and trousers from £7, shirts from £5 and footwear from just £3.

Socks and underwear can also be yours for just £1.50, as well as a number of accessories starting at £3.

See in-store or visit www.burton.co.uk.

Homebase sale is the perfect time to decorate

SAVE 50 per cent on garden furniture, conservatories and lighting at Homebase's clearance sale.

Customers can also get a third off selected barbecues and bathrooms, 50 per cent off selected outdoor heaters and three for two on Dulux emulsion. There is also money off 275 items of furniture.

For more information see in store just off of Star Lane, Westwood, or go to www.homebase.co.uk.

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yourthanetmusic

Back for another pop at orchestral manoeuvres

BY JANE CONNOLLY

NEARLY 40 years ago, a successful rocker began to experiment with a little side project in classically influenced pop.

The musician was Roy Wood and the project was to become one of the world's most successful bands. Once he had recruited the talents of The Idle Race's frontman, Jeff Lynne, the new group began to create rock songs that featured violins, cellos, horns and woodwind to give them classical overtones.

Lynne wrote a song that was intended to be a B-side for The Move, Wood added multiple cellos and it became the Electric Light Orchestra's first song, 10538 Overture.

While still releasing The Move records, Wood and Lynne worked on ELO recordings and in 1971 the band's debut album was finally released.

But early disagreements led to Wood leaving to form Wizzard, taking two members of the band with him. Lynne was to drive the direction of ELO for most of its first incarnation and by the mid-1970s it had become one of the industry's biggest-selling bands.

Violinist Mik Kaminski joined ELO in 1973 and played with them for six years. He later performed with ELO Part II and is now touring with The Orchestra, which also features former ELO members Louis Clark and Kelly Groucutt, and ELO Part II's Eric Troyer, Phil Bates and Gordon Townsend. What's more, the band will play a number of Kent venues later this year as part of a UK tour.

ELO achieved huge success in the US before



HEAD START: Mik Kaminski (top left) and The Orchestra will play three Kent venues during their autumn UK tour

gaining the same recognition in the UK. Kaminski, 56, believes it was the entertaining nature of the performances that got American music fans on board.

"It was almost the curiosity factor of seeing two cellists and a violinist wandering around the stage, trying to endanger life," he said. "They found it quite amusing."

It was their sixth album that really made a commercial impact in the UK and ELO's popularity rocketed in their home country, with platinum-selling albums spawning huge hits such as Mr Blue Sky, Wild West Hero and Sweet Talkin' Woman. ELO disbanded in 1988 when

Lynne refused to make a new album, but it was not the end of the story. Former members put together ELO Part II and OrKestra while Lynne made a comeback with a new album in 2001, recorded with just one other returning ELO member, Richard Tandy.

When Bev Bevan disbanded ELO Part II in 2000, the remaining members continued as The Orchestra and are still delighting fans with their live shows.

The Orchestra will be at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on October 11, Margate Winter Gardens on October 12, and the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on October 24.

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MAKING a big splash in Thanet next week is the annual Broadstairs Water Gala, bringing a bit of traditional seaside mayhem back to the town.

The event is now in its 120th year is described by many as an integral part of growing up in Thanet.

Thousands of revellers will descend upon the town on Wednesday, August 20, to witness the madcap fun and enjoy a day out by the sea-side.

The gala starts at 10am when King Neptune emerges from the sea at Viking Bay in a traditional opening ritual where his blessing and approval is granted.

Other free activities include a teddy bears' picnic at the Liliput mini golf course at 9.30pm, boat trips from the jetty, swimming races and beach volleyball.

Traditional sandcastle and sculpture compe-

titions, Punch and Judy shows, children's fancy dress and even knobbly knees and glamorous granny contests will be sure to put smiles on faces.

Craft and trade stalls will line the prom and a family fun fair will also be in full swing.

The Dickens Society is holding a Victorian bathing event and fireworks will wrap up proceedings in the evening.

Many chalets and beach huts will be decorated with a theme of the 120th year celebrations.

Sorcha Page, one of the event's organisers, said: "It's all free and up to 40,000 people usually come along for a day out. It's such a traditional event and we're hoping to see more big crowds this year."

She added: "It's something that families come along to each year and it has become a real part of island life."

"I'm sure everyone will enjoy themselves and hopefully we will have lots of participants in the events."

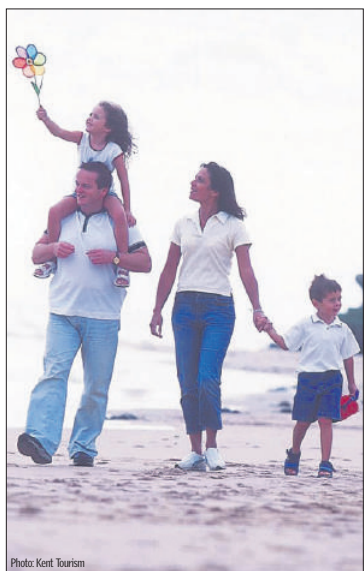


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YOUR TV REVIEW



THE SECRET MILLIONAIRE

Channel 4, 9pm, Tuesday



HOUSE OF SADDAM

BBC Two, 9pm, Wednesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

DEATH, guns, chasing after villains and high-octane explosions are well and good, and we all need a bit of escapism in our lives, but we all know there's a little more to life than that really.

Every now and then it's nice to feel that television can explore avenues other than just straight forward entertainment which is why Channel 4's Secret Millionaire is usually such a welcome addition to the schedules.

For a show that rarely fails to be engaging, it was, admittedly, not the best of starts.

It fell to a financier James Benamor to make a difference first, but things got off to a muted beginning.

The guy with an aversion to introductions (maybe not the best of attributes for this kind of thing) ditched his Lotus and the trappings of wealth for 10 days and tootled around less than perfect Moss Side in Manchester in a clapped-out Nissan.

Posing as a volunteer youth worker while looking for people to donate sizeable chunks of his £77 million fortune to, James did his best, but episode one just didn't have the emotional resonance of past efforts in the series and never really got going.

As it's a show that lives and dies by how many tears it can wring out of an audience, and indeed its participants, so expect rainy faces before bedtime as we head into the next few episodes and the rest of the series.

While it wasn't the best of begin-



MONEYBAGS: Channel 4's Secret Millionaire shows just how innovative the channel can be

nings, the last run was among the best TV on our screens last year and won numerous awards.

It served as a sharp reminder as to why, when they really make the effort, Channel 4 is still our most innovative broadcaster.

What makes this show all the more inspiring is watching those obscenely rich people learn more about life outside their mansions and fawning social set than they ever thought they would.

House of Saddam has been a bit of a hoot these last few weeks as we have watched the Iraqi despot torture, rape and pillage his way to the top of the country's hierarchy in very graphic style.

This all has a very camp feel to it, with some very over the top acting and sets that could well have been stolen from the parking lot of the ill-fated Carry On Columbus, but has nonetheless it has been great fun watching the panto unfold.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner could encourage you to act on a dream. It's never too late to realise your heartfelt desires. Some heavy flirting with a love interest could make life exciting again. If you're already in a relationship, you may want to step up your game.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

MAKING more time for pleasurable pursuits is a good idea. Lately, you've been snowed under with family responsibilities. Be ready to hand these duties to someone else so you can have some fun. Your boss may not have a clear idea of what you should be doing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

BUSINESS matters demand your attention. It's possible you're not being paid enough to perform a difficult job. Be ready to ask for a raise, even if it means confronting a difficult employer. They won't part with money easily, but they'll be unable to argue with your logic.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

LEARNING about a social justice issue could give you a new lease on life. You're determined to make a positive difference. Be wary of casting judgment on a relative. Their feelings are pretty fragile right now. Think back to when you could have benefited from a compassionate attitude.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOUR detailed knowledge of a particular subject puts you in line for a promotion. Don't be shy about promoting your extensive background in this area. You're far more experienced than any of your rivals. An honest talk with a partner could reveal some troubling information.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A SHORT trip to see family could be in the cards. Try not to bring up troubling incidents from the past. Don't contradict an expert. Although you have different ideas about how certain things should be done, they have spent a lifetime perfecting their own techniques.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU'RE about to assume a much more public role. It may be up to you to deliver some difficult news. Fortunately, you're able to talk about difficult subjects in a way that is compassionate and sensitive. Resist the urge to dress down an incompetent colleague.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU have a wonderful opportunity to put some old knowledge to use at work. Don't be surprised if you're asked to demonstrate a skill or technique. Your energy and enthusiasm make you a popular teacher. Your students will also be impressed by your versatility.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

ESTABLISHING a new routine should be your first order of business. Having a game plan is half the battle. You need to conserve your energy to handle the heavy workload ahead. Be realistic when it comes to an absent minded friend. If you need help, ask a neighbour or relative.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THIS is a wonderful time to negotiate a better salary. You're overdue for a reward. A writing project could be a welcome outlet for bottled up emotions. Just because you can't express your true feelings in public doesn't mean you have to keep them entirely buried.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A FRIEND could give you a wake-up call. It's time to change the way you think about the world. Perhaps you've been taking too pessimistic a view of life. You can create opportunities when you look at the universe as a potential packed place. You could be entrusted with secrets.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

GAINING admittance to a school, club, or professional organisation is highly favoured. You'll have to fill out some detailed paperwork. Enlist the aid of an eagle-eyed Virgo to make sure you don't skip any important points. Listen to an expert with regard to business.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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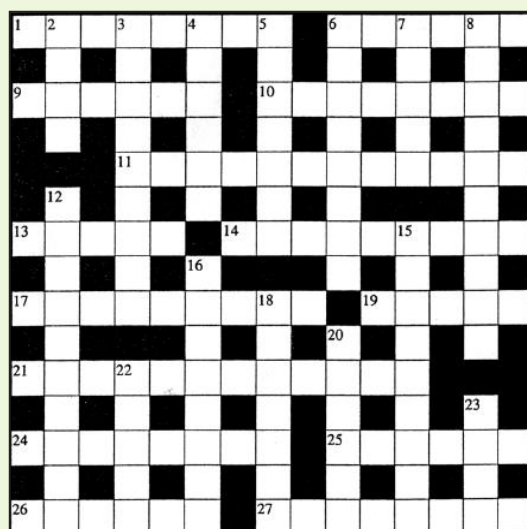
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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Ancient writer (5-3)
 - 6 Entirely trendy drink, love (2,4)
 - 9 During waltz Anderson consumed fish (6)
 - 10 Reasonable allowance has a learner's backing (8)
 - 11 Form of late education (7,5)
 - 13 Mark upset a Fate (5)
 - 14 It is linked to offer personal protection (5-4)
 - 17 Hard mineral from sink removed first by miser (9)
 - 19 Bridge partners always jeer (5)
 - 21 Doing a cover-up job on the walls? (12)
 - 24 Gun Carol cocked gave loud ringing sound (8)
 - 25 Large number of towns, one in South Africa (6)
 - 26 Lady's short poem? (6)
 - 27 Coming from Clare, new novelist (8)
- #### DOWN
- 2 In the group a sequoia tree! (4)
 - 3 The Parisian maidens upsetting would-be seducer (6,3)
 - 4 Speak with another player mesmerised (6)
 - 5 And not said hag coming from the city (7)
 - 6 New obligation did not include old boy making engraved design (8)
 - 7 Goblin to start to go round and round (5)
 - 8 Finds extra trouble when made immobile (10)
 - 12 Card held at random by loud show-off (4-3-3)
 - 15 Middle Eastern horse on lake at zoo (9)
 - 16 Disappointment, dingy abode has vent for gas to escape (8)
 - 18 Breathtaking feature (7)
 - 20 Fungus on beer you and I lifted up (6)
 - 22 Indistinct part of old tinge (5)
 - 23 Scotsman right to include brandy (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 SKO (8)
- 6 Themes (6)
- 9 Openly done (6)
- 10 Snowstorm (8)
- 11 Best selling brand (6,6)
- 13 Follow (5)
- 14 Dishonest schemes (3-2,4)
- 17 Most sweltering (9)
- 19 Aquatic mammal (5)
- 21 Take unfair precedence (4,3,5)
- 24 Prosperous (4-2-2)
- 25 Hit high (6)
- 26 Unaccented (6)
- 27 Omnipotent (8)

DOWN

- 2 Commonsense (4)
- 3 Journalist (9)
- 4 Carriage pulled by an animal (6)
- 5 Picturesque display (7)
- 6 Rehearsal (5,3)
- 7 Open pie (5)
- 8 Tinned meat (6,4)
- 12 Deceptive (10)
- 15 Jazz dance (9)
- 16 One who stays up late (5-3)
- 18 Redwood tree (7)
- 20 Fine parchment (6)
- 22 Cable supporter (5)
- 23 Bodily extremities (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No48

EASY

4	3	7	8	2	1	5	9	6
6	1	8	7	9	5	2	3	4
2	5	9	6	4	3	7	8	1
5	7	6	9	3	2	1	4	8
8	9	4	1	7	6	3	5	2
3	2	1	4	5	8	6	7	9
7	8	3	2	6	4	9	1	5
1	6	5	3	8	9	4	2	7
9	4	2	5	1	7	8	6	3

MEDIUM

9	6	2	4	1	3	5	8	7
3	7	5	2	8	9	1	6	4
1	8	4	6	7	5	2	9	3
7	9	6	3	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	3	9	6	1	7	5	8
5	1	8	7	2	4	9	3	6
6	4	9	1	3	7	8	2	5
2	5	7	8	9	6	3	4	1
8	3	1	5	4	2	6	7	9

HARD

6	9	2	4	3	1	7	5	8
4	7	8	9	2	5	3	6	1
1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4	2
5	4	3	2	9	8	1	7	6
9	2	1	7	5	6	8	3	4
7	8	6	3	1	4	2	9	5
2	1	7	5	4	9	6	8	3
8	5	9	1	6	3	4	2	7
3	6	4	8	7	2	5	1	9

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No48

ACROSS: 1 Wexford 5 Request 9 Hair 10 Casablanca 12 Repeater 13 Rumble 14 Trade journal 17 Everybody out 21 Callow 23 Rhetoric 24 Like-minded 25 Adze 26 Undergo 27 Revenge. DOWN: 2 Elated 3 Fire-eater 4 Ricotta 6 Embargo 7 Unarm 8 Sicilian 11 Surrendered 15 Rationale 16 Aviation 18 Bowling 19 Overdue 20 Zigzag 22 Liège.

QUICK SOLUTION No49

Wellum 22 Pylon 23 Feet
Jitterbug 16 Night-owl 18 Sequoia 20
Pizza 8 Corned beef 12 Fraudulent 15
Columnist 4 Oxcart 5 Tableau 6 Trial run 7
Alonzo 27 Almighty. 28 Nons 3
the queue 24 Well-to-do 25 Lobbed 26
Put-up jobs 17 Sultriest 19 Otter 21 Jump
10 Blizzard 11 Market leader 13 Trail 14
ACROSS: 1 Knockout 6 Topics 9 Public

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

MAKE IT HAPPEN (PG)



Lauryl is a young woman from a small town in Indiana who moves to Chicago with dreams of entering the Chicago School of Music and Dance. But after rejection and a series of misfortunes she finds herself working in a burlesque club. The club proves to be a place of conflict and self-discovery, helping Lauryl to realise that even though plans may change, dreams never do.

THE X FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (15)



When a series of mysterious abductions take place and the questionable visions of a priest turn up inexplicable evidence it's a case right out of The X-Files. But the FBI closed down its investigations into the paranormal years ago. And the best team for the job is ex-agents Fox Mulder and Dr Dana Scully, who have no desire to revisit their dark past. Still, the truth of these horrific crimes is out there somewhere... and it will take Mulder and Scully to find it.

THE DARK NIGHT (12A)



With the help of Lieutenant Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent, the new 'white knight', Batman has been making headway against local crime... that is until a rising criminal mastermind known simply as The Joker unleashes a fresh reign of chaos across Gotham.

Maria's in on the action

BY ELLIE GENOWER

DURING the past 10 years, Maria Bello has been known more for her serious dramatic roles in critically-acclaimed indie hits like *The History Of Violence* and *The Cooler*.

So to see her in a sword-wielding, kick-ass action role in the third *Mummy* film is something of a surprise.

But not for the 41-year-old actress herself. The US star, who takes on the role of Evelyn alongside Brendan Fraser in the film, has long dreamed of starring in an action flick.

"It was a blast," she says. "I dreamed my whole life about being Indiana Jones, even through this career of mine."

"I really wanted to be an action hero so I trained a lot in sword fighting. I had amazing trainers from China and Canada and a great stunt double. I also loved the shooting range. When Brendan had a gun I always wanted a bigger gun. It was a real dream come true for me."

Maria takes over the role of Evelyn from British actress Rachel Weisz who, as a new mum, didn't fancy the long movie shoot in China. As a result, Maria had to adopt Rachel's English accent in the film, which she didn't find easy.

"The thing is, I can do my lines from the movie but if you asked me to do an English accent right now I couldn't do it," she says.

"I have never been very good at the accent. It's funny, though, as my seven-year-old son Jackson still does it once in a while because he heard me talk like that during the movie. He'll say, 'Can I have a spot of tea please mum?'"



ACTION: Maria Bello enjoyed her combat training but admits she's no exerciser

This third instalment in The *Mummy* franchise follows explorer Rick O'Connell (Brendan) as he, his son Alex (Luke Ford), wife Evelyn, and her brother Jonathan (John Hannah) head to China where they do battle with evil Mummy, the Dragon Emperor (Jet Li).

Awoken from a 2,000 year curse, the Emperor and his 10,000

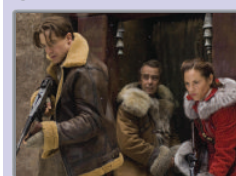
warriors threaten to plunge the world into his merciless and cruel service. Only Rick, Alex and Evelyn stand in his way.

The cast and crew found themselves on location in Beijing and Shanghai which Maria describes as an "amazing experience".

"I was there ten years ago and they were in the midst of transition," she explains, "and there was

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a very heavy feeling there. Going back recently was a whole different thing because there's such vitality and hope now.

"China has become an economic and political world power, though I've never been a fan of their politics, like I'm not a fan of George Bush's politics."

"I fell in love with the people there. They are very generous, very kind. I really fell in love with the country. I think it's a place to see right now."

With the likes of martial arts experts Jet Li and Michelle Yeoh on set, the pressure was on for Maria to shape up and fully embrace her new action persona.

However, the actress admits she wasn't quite up to scratch in that department.

"It was really fun but the truth is I'm not an exerciser," she laughs.

"I would never work out. I was eating hotdogs and drinking wine and smoking cigarettes every night. Meanwhile, Brendan Fraser, who has never been more buff in his life, would come to set every day with rice cakes and work out two hours a day. I don't know how he did it."



THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR
Certificate 12A

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THE MUMMY
TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR # (12A)
(12.20), 2.50, 5.40, 8.10
moderate violence & horror

BUJO SCREEN
THE DARK KNIGHT # (12A)
3.30, 7.45
moderate violence & sustained threat
KUNG FU PANDA (PG)
(1.10) sharp

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A short break is truly capital

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

WE all like London. Whatever we say about 'too many people', 'too much traffic', 'too much...' whatever, we all like it.

It is our nation's capital, there is a buzz about the place which gets to everyone and, if you don't have to work there, it's fun.

From my W1 hotel I'd been promised 'dramatic views across London's skyline' what I actually saw was an office block. But, if I leaned to the left, I could see the London Eye.

Now don't view this as a complaint. I was staying at the swish Cavendish Hotel, just off Piccadilly opposite Fortnum and Masons, in west London as part of an overnight short break, which included a West End show.

The truth is, I've seen London's skyline a thousand times and the giant TV and king size bed were far more interesting. However, had I been one of the trillions of Japanese tourists who had chosen the Cavendish, I might have been a little peeved at the view.

The four-star Cavendish is a great hotel, brilliantly located – especially for the West End and all the theatres and some fantastic restaurants – and you can be staying there in the lap of luxury for a couple of hundred pounds.

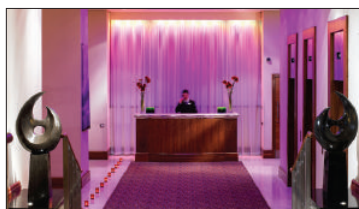
But let's take a look at the short break: Firstly, London is cheaper than you think. Forget the stories of it being the most expensive capital in the world and all the other nonsense. Remember, ordinary folk do live there and they can't afford to spend ridiculous money on living just because London attracts the odd rich tourist and City boys scoring £1 million bonuses.

And secondly – an important selling factor in 2008 – is that there's a bit of a recession going on. No sorry, I mean there's a 'credit crunch', so there's less cash about, which means there are bargains galore to be had.

I kid you not. My partner and I sat outside a French restaurant just off Covent Garden (a 10 minute stroll from the hotel) on a warm evening just two weeks ago, where I tucked into the finest onion soup I've ever tasted, then steak-frites, washed down with wine, followed



NEVER FORGET: A weekend at the Cavendish Hotel, shopping and catching a show, can be cheaper than you'd think



by coffee. I said goodbye to £35 – for both of us.

And what of the theatre? Well we chose to ignore the obvious Les Miserables, or the spectacularly well-received Billy Elliot, nor were we attracted by Mamma Mia!, we'd chosen to see Never Forget – the musical that brings Take That to the stage at The Savoy Theatre.

My partner is a fan of the boy band and I have no shame in admitting I've absorbed the songs over the years. It really was fun, beauti-

fully produced with fine special effects.

A simple story about five lads forming a tribute band and the singer Ash (Gary Barlow character) learning love means never having to... well do anything really apart from sing and fail to save your mum's pub from repossession. But it romped along and was a great evening that had us dancing in the aisles.

The Cavendish is deserving of its four-stars and breakfast delivered to your room (an extra £21) was a great start to the day. Saturday was spent shopping of course – again be prepared for bargains on everything from trainers and shirts to Fortnum and Masons' finest.

A great weekend and the easy bit for us in Kent is driving to the O2 Arena (A2 all the way) park on a Friday afternoon (£9 until Saturday midnight) and the Jubilee Line takes you to Green Park and the hotel.

Try it, it's a great way to take in a show and sample the best of London... and it doesn't cost the earth.

SHARE THE FUN



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Gary Wright was a guest of Superbreak 0871 222 3055 or www.superbreak.com, offering a variety of short breaks to London.

A package combining overnight accommodation in a double room at the four star Cavendish Hotel with full breakfast and a rear stall or upper circle ticket to see Never Forget costs from £134 per person.

Price is valid at weekends in September and based on two sharing.

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Talk to us about how you can support and get involved in this special event by contacting us on 01795 845288, events@demelza.org.uk or visit www.demelza.org.uk

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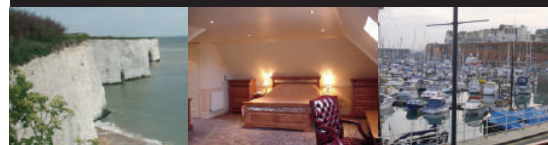
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PROPERTY NEWS



On the junction of great opportunity

STYLISH one- and two-bedroom apartments in Maidstone will be launched by Ward Homes later this month.

A total of 44 homes are being offered for sale at Maidstone Junction.

Ann Moriarty, sales and marketing director for the company said: "The proximity of the train station is a huge advantage, and whether you want to shop, relax, exercise, or go clubbing – it's all nearby. We're pricing these apartments very competitively so that first-time buyers don't have to compromise with anything less than a great lifestyle in the centre of town."

Many of the apartments have a balcony or terrace and there is an elevated courtyard on the first floor, which will be landscaped to provide an outdoor space for residents.

Home ownership is still the aim of many

DESIRE to own your own home appears to be showing no sign of abating, despite the recent falls in house prices.

New research commissioned by the New Homes Marketing Board found nine out of 10 people believe buying a home is a sensible investment in the medium or long term.

This is despite surveys from the Land Registry and Rightmove showing prices are continuing to accelerate downwards.

However, the research – which was carried out by YouGov – reveals the economic climate, and not falling prices, is serving to stifle home-ownership ambitions.

About 60 per cent of respondents have put their plans to purchase property on hold, citing difficulties in either obtaining a mortgage or saving the larger deposits required.



GREEN STATEMENT: The next Sustainability Explored workshop takes place at the Pines Calyx venue (pictured) on September 10. Visit www.sustainabilityexplored.co.uk

Sustainable building can be achieved now

■ BY NICK AMES

THE organisers of a number of conferences in east Kent have called on house builders to change if they are to deliver the homes needed in a world affected by ever-higher fuel costs and global warming.

A series of workshops called Sustainability Explored, aimed at professionals in planning, housing, design and construction, has been staged to help them get to grips with the challenge of producing zero-carbon buildings and sustainable communities needed in Kent in the 21st century.

The workshops, sponsored by English Partnerships and the Carbon Free Group, are

being organised by social enterprise Real-Health Ventures, in the Pine Calyx venue in St Margaret's.

Jae Mather of the Carbon Free Group said: "Developers keep saying zero carbon homes are expensive to build, yet we can prove they are wrong and we'll be featuring a design which will cost only £1,100 a square metre, only marginally more costly than a conventional house being built today. What is more, they use proven technologies and can be built now. We'll be telling people how that can be done."

The idea for the workshops came from members of the Carbon Free Group of environmental businesses, who are working together

to apply low-carbon building techniques.

They say that to construct energy-efficient buildings, the whole industry needs to acquire new skills and understand how to use new technologies and techniques.

"There have been a lot of developments in the ways people think about building low carbon, sustainable buildings, particularly homes" says Alistair Gould of the Pines Calyx.

"Our own building is a great example, but there is a pressing need for the whole industry to really understand what is involved. These are exciting times, but also confusing with new regulations, new designs, new technologies.

"So far the mainstream industry has been very slow in changing, but the pace of change is going to accelerate in the coming years. We are giving people a chance to get up to speed."

AUCTIONEER CLIVE EMSON TAKES A TOUR OF SOME OF THE QUIRKIER PROPERTIES TO BE FOUND IN THE AREA @ propertyforkent.co.uk



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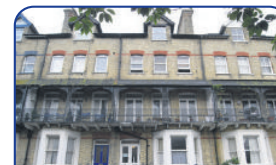


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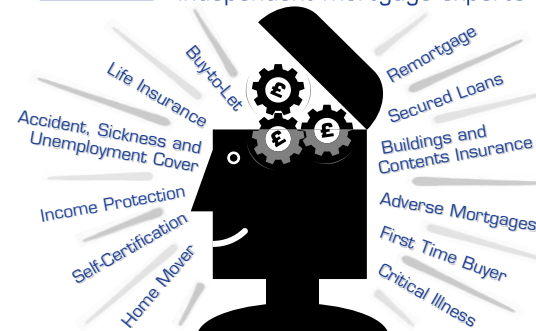


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95 Station Road, Birchington CT7 9RE

Semi Detached 1930's Character Property

Ground floor shop: Large Reception 15'6" x 10'0" + Bay Window, a down stairs toilet 4'x 4'7", Treatment Room 14'10" x 9'8" with Patio Door to 160ft long garden. Parking space for up to four cars, presently running as beauty salon (not included in sale) on a busy main road.

Selling Price & Tenure

Selling Price 1: £255,000

Business Details: Presently running as beauty salon (not included in sale) but negotiable.

Annual T/O 25-30k (Open 3.5 days p/w)

Business Details: Ground floor shop: Large Reception 15'6" x 10'0" + Bay Window, a down stairs toilet 4'x 4'7", treatment Room 14'10" x 9'8" with Patio Door to a 160ft long garden. Parking space for up to four cars, presently running as beauty salon (not included in sale) on a busy main road.

Accommodation Details

Is accommodation included with this business: Yes

Number of bedrooms: 2 doubles

Accommodation Details: 1930 Character Property, in good order throughout.

Upstairs: Bathroom 5'6" - 5'0", Separate toilet 4' x 3'6", large lounge / diner 15'6" x 12'9", Bed(1) 14'10" x 9'8", Bed(2) 11'5" x 7'5" and kitchen 10'10" x 7'5", fully equipped + Bay Window (down stairs).

Outside: 1 Outbuilding 9'10" x 6'0" and 1 Wood Shed 12" x 9" (optional). Partially boarded Loft potential for extension.

Location Details

Town: Kennington

Area: Kent

Location Details: Property is in a two mile radius of Ashford centre close to Ashford International Station, bus routes, schools, 5min to M20 / J9 and 5min to Eureka Leisure Park.

Contact Details

Vanessa: 07769626760



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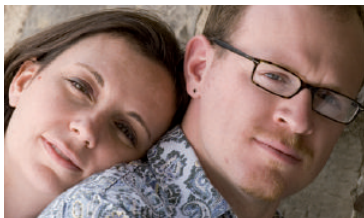
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FOND OF A BLONDE?

Blonde female, 21, outgoing, medium build, loves country walks, fun nights out, playing golf etc. WLTW guy, 21-27, to share fun times with. Heathfield, Box 891100 **6**

LOOKIN' AT A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!

25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, NS, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW tall, attractive man, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442544 **6**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **6**

SEE WHERE IT TAKES US

I'm 26, 5ft10, enjoy going out, restaurants, pubs, cinema and cosy nights in, looking for someone tall to go out with possibly leading to relationship. Box 418077 **6**

WE COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN

Relaxed redhead, 32yr old, 5ft4, enjoys theatre, meals and cosy nights in, WLTW a male, 30-42, for a happy relationship. Box 442617 **6**

THE NURSE WILL SEE YOU NOW...

Laid-back yet outgoing nurse, 33, 5ft2, faithful, happy, love swimming, the gym, seeking similar down-to-earth male, 35-50, for hopeful relationship. Box 442916 **6**

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUTH

I'm Ruth, hard-working, kind, caring woman, 32, brown hair, nice smile, looking to meet similar chap, so call me and let's see how it goes. Box 901072 **6**

SENSUAL HEALING?

I'm a social, caring and sensual woman, 33, who enjoys having fun, conversation, arts, music and eating out, seeking a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 89177 **6**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells, Box 308734 **6**

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782 **6**

CHAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Lovely single mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTW male for fun, laughter, maybe LTR. Box 372889 **6**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive female, 38, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male for friendship/more. Box 901893 **6**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving, tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **6**

MAKE ME LAUGH!

Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curly, seeking nice guy to start off as friends/more. Box 442905 **6**

MOVING ON FROM FRIENDSHIP

Hi I'm 45, 5ft6, largish build, blue eyes, non-smoker/driver, devoted kid, with walks, beaches and more. Canterbury, Box 440592 **6**

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE?

Fast approaching a winter of discontent, 46, tall, bright, could you be my log fire and toasted marshmallow? Box 918163 **6**

LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Slender female, 46, 5ft11, easygoing, happy natured, seeking WLTW with a caring, committed man who enjoys cinema, eating out, reading, DVDs and more. Box 443216 **6**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **6**

SANDY SEES DANNY

Slender, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no love to love socialising, eating out etc. GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 **6**

LET'S TAKE A RIDE

Carving, spiritual lady, 47, friendly, honest, love motor-biking, WLTW gentleman interested in bikes, walks, holidays, the countryside, museums, castles, and perhaps love! Box 440397 **6**

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTW male for fun and friendship. Box 895928 **6**

TAKE A CHANCE

Caring, loving, attractive female, 41, NS, size 12, enjoys keeping fit, most things, seeks romantic, passionate, tall, good looking male, 35-42, for LTR. Eastbourne, Box 807291 **6**

LAUGHTER - VERY IMPORTANT

Single mum with own property, 43, loves running, swimming and keeping fit, wicked SOH, seeking someone to make me laugh and spend good times with. Box 443081 **6**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Caring, loving, attractive female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 441456 **6**

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **6**

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, NS, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford, Box 428833 **6**

NEED A FRIEND?

Outgoing, friendly female, 69, 5ft2, likes going out, meals, dancing, bowls, socialising, cinema, concerts, seeking someone similar for friendship and companionship. Box 443092 **6**

NEED YOUR LOVE

Honest lovely lady, 72, 5ft1, cuddly, own bungalow, WLTW female to go on walks, shopping, the seaside and enjoy friendship with. Box 442939 **6**

WOMEN seeking women

CUTE SMILE

Tracey, 23, 5ft2, green eyes, slim, blonde hair, enjoys meals out, clubs and WLTW a similar female for a relationship. Box 443246 **6**

ROCKING RELATIONSHIP

Fun-loving female, 28, in the Canterbury area, short brown hair, brown eyes, looking to meet fun-loving females for potential relationship. Box 889771 **6**

CANDLELIT CUDDELS!

40-year-old gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTW gay woman for friendship/relationship. Seaford, Box 894541 **6**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **6**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 48, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks friendly chap, 48-55, Box 417100 **6**

LOVELY LADY...

53, fit and healthy, single now for nine years and can't find the right man! If you enjoy sports and live music let's chat! Box 923309 **6**

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeking similar person for friendship/more. Box 440857 **6**

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, NS, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship and to make me laugh. Box 440837 **6**

THREE C, THAT'S ME

Viscious, tactile, considerate widow, 58, 5ft, smoker, well travelled, no ties, loves cruising, cooking and culture, seeks genuine, interesting gentleman with similar attributes/interests. Box 442968 **6**

NEVER WOULD SO GOOD!

Attractive, classy, well-groomed 57yr old lady, white South African, blue eyes/brown hair, 5ft5. Enjoy music, pubs, country walks, romantic dinners, travel, WLTW affectionate, honest gent. Box 418554 **6**

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Add a photo of yourself

Register your number with us & send by SMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

MAKE ME PURR

Happy-go-lucky lady with nice smile, 62, 5ft5, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating in/out, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171 **6**

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Widower, early 60s, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, medium build, non-smoking, loving, caring, no baggage! enjoys travelling, socialising, eating in/out, seeking similar male to enjoy life with. Box 441177 **6**

ON A OFFER

Darren, 39, fun loving, genuine, 5ft8, medium build, average build, smoker, WLTW a female soulmate, 25-45, for a LTR, no time wastes please. Box 442438 **6**

THE SPECIAL ONE?

41yr old genuine and understanding single lady, 5'3", short cropped hair, enjoys sports, life to the full, looking for lady, medium/large, for friendship, possibly more. Box 433635 **6**

BRING BACK LOVE

Hi I'm Nick, 41, 5ft11, enjoy cinema, eating out, golf, WLTW similar brown hair female for good times and lots of fun, perhaps love. Box 440769 **6**

WIN A TONY

41yo fun-loving guy, 5ft7, green eyes, slim-medium build, easy to get on with, honest and caring, seeks like-minded lady to enjoy everything and anything with. Maidstone, Box 443105 **6**

SIMON SAYS...

Caring single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking, WLTW lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex, Box 963530 **6**

R U THE 1 FOR ME?

Lonely, loving male, 40, 6ft2, brown hair/eyes, medium/cuddly build, trustworthy, genuine and romantic, seeking honest, fun-loving, caring female to spend life with. Box 429941 **6**



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 **6**

HOW CAN YOU RESIST?

Down-to-earth lovable guy, 30, 5ft8, stocky, blonde hair/fine eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, WLTW genuine girl for LTR. Box 441947 **6**

GO FOR IT

Happy-go-lucky, fun loving male 31, 6ft, slim, likes pubs, clubs, playing snooker, pool, seeks caring, honest female, 32-44, for a lasting relationship. Box 410205 **6**

YOU & ME

Genuine, laid-back male, 33, 6ft, dark brown hair/brown eyes, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, sports, seeks genuine female with similar interests. Box 131966 **6**

SECURITY & WARMTH

I'm 35, 6ft, have a beautiful 3yr old little girl, very honest, caring, looking for someone I can love and make a new life with... Box 896178 **6**

WORKING OVERTIME

Self-employed male, 37, 6ft1, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoy the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLTW female for long term relationship. Box 443065 **6**

RED MAN

Honest, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6ft, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTW like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440 **6**

ALL I WANT

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, easy evenings in. Box 914917 **6**

JOYFUL

Ledum creative gent, 38, 5ft8, medium build, short brown hair, like films, DVDs, cinema, pubbing, computer games, keeping fit, WLTW similar female for relationship. Box 441920 **6**

ON A OFFER

Darren, 39, fun loving, genuine, 5ft8, medium build, average build, smoker, WLTW a female soulmate, 25-45, for a LTR, no time wastes please. Box 442438 **6**

THE SPECIAL ONE?

41yr old genuine and understanding single lady, 5'3", short cropped hair, enjoys sports, life to the full, looking for lady, medium/large, for friendship, possibly more. Box 433635 **6**

BRING BACK LOVE

Hi I'm Nick, 41, 5ft11, enjoy cinema, eating out, golf, WLTW similar brown hair female for good times and lots of fun, perhaps love. Box 440769 **6**

WIN A TONY

41yo fun-loving guy, 5ft7, green eyes, slim-medium build, easy to get on with, honest and caring, seeks like-minded lady to enjoy everything and anything with. Maidstone, Box 443105 **6**

SIMON SAYS...

Caring single dad, 41, 5'10", average build, young-looking, WLTW lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex, Box 963530 **6**

R U THE 1 FOR ME?

Lonely, loving male, 40, 6ft2, brown hair/eyes, medium/cuddly build, trustworthy, genuine and romantic, seeking honest, fun-loving, caring female to spend life with. Box 429941 **6**

CARING

Understanding, average-looking, stocky, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports, WLTW someone similar to me. Maidstone, Box 411411 **6**

OPEN ARMS

Content male, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports, WLTW someone similar to me. Maidstone, Box 411411 **6**

LOVING AND KIND

Honest and caring male, 43, 5ft10, GSOH, WLTW a black female, 28-50, with a nice figure for a committed relationship. No time wastes! Box 443126 **6**

LIFETIME LOVER

Loving, honest male, 43, slim, very genuine with GSOH, likes nights in, travelling, walks, cinema, seeks black lady for company possible relationship. Box 889284 **6**

DOWN TO MARGARET!

Young-looking, slim male, 43yr old, 5ft11, GSOH, WLTW a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Margate, Box 441706 **6**

NO TIME WASTERS!

Genuine frank, 6ft, slim brown hair, green eyes, romantic and sensitive, enjoys soul music, bowling, pubs and walks, WLTW a female, 33-40 for a LTR. Box 442674 **6**

CRAZY FOR YOU

Attractive, considerate man, 42, enjoys quiet nights in, socialising, enjoys soul music, bowling, pubs and walks, WLTW a female, 33-40 for a LTR. Box 442674 **6**

SEE MY G-STRING

Young-at-heart musical male, 44, plays bass, loves punk music, poetry, nights out/in, live gigs, poetry, looking for alternative young woman 25-30 for something special. Brighton, Box 443154 **6**

NOBODY WANTS TO BE LONELY

Loving 45yr old male, loves the countryside, walks on the beach and motorbikes but not being on my own. Seeking female for a LTR. S-Leamards-on-Sea, Box 88886 **6**

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE

Professional male, 45, own home/cars, likes cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good times, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 442922 **6**

NEW TO THE AREA

Attractive male, 47yr old, moving to the area shortly, WLTW a nice and slim lady, 30-45, any race, for friendship. East Sussex Box 443095 **6**

FILE THIS

Hello, I'm William, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, enjoys meals out, nice wine and a good laugh, WLTW a nice and slim lass for a relationship. Box 443235 **6**

ALL FUN OF THE FAIR!

Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTW female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 373529 **6**

HOP ON

Very young at heart male, 51, looking for a very genuine person to enjoy walking, cycling, rock-climbing, motorcycles, and share life and have fun with. Box 443089 **6**

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BRING ME SUNSHINE

Young looking, romantic male, 58, 5'7", slim/medium build, like the countryside, meals out, theatre, cinema, looking for an affectionate, tactile lady to share good moments. Box 41789 **6**

SMILES ON FACES

MOTORS NEWS



'Dream launch' for new £3m KAP mega-site

KAP Motor Group enjoyed a 'dream launch' for its new £3 million Peugeot/Nissan site at Ashford Orbital Park over the weekend, according to MD Graham Furneaux.

Though coy about the number of cars sold, the figure was twice that expected and added up to a good mix of new and used cars as well as smaller models now attracting cash-strapped buyers.

"There's a lot negativity around, but if the deal is right then this proves you can do business," said Mr Furneaux.

"We many existing customers from our Folkestone site, but new faces too."



Cherokee changes tact with upmarket styling

JEEP revolutionised its UK image with the original Cherokee and aims to revitalise the model name with an all-new car this month, riding on a new suspension and steering system for better on-road manners.

Jeep says the Cherokee is moving upmarket too with a leather interior, heated front seats with memory adjustment, climate control, electric windows and cruise control all as standard.

The newcomer, priced from £24,595, has an optional 'Sky Slider' powered full-open canvas roof 2.5 times the size of a regular sunroof.



Ford boss predicts that Ka Two will be a big hit

FORD'S all-new Ford Ka will echo the look of the big-selling original when it goes on sale in November after a joint project with Fiat.

Ford of Britain boss Roelant de Waard said: "The original has been a huge hit in the UK with a sales record of more than 480,000 – 80 per cent of which have been to retail customers, and many of those first-time buyers. I'm confident the latest design will prove just as big a hit."



NEW LOOK: Like the original, the new '6' is sizeable, but now looks sleeker and feels lighter thanks to Mazda's obsession with shedding weight, helping the car grip and run true on bends

Mazda hits drivers with yet another stunning '6'

ROAD TEST MAZDA6

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

status of the 'Zoom Zoom' brand have moved upmarket – reflected by strong second-hand values for the first generation car – and that many buyers like the idea of a greener family-size model rather than downsizing their car choice.

All engines have been carried over from the old car, but tweaked to cut CO2 emissions, fuel consumption and road tax.

The cabin is airy and well-arranged with excellent head and legroom front and back and the part leather seats of our Sport model were comfortable and supportive.

Interior materials feel more solid now, even if the 'alloy' grey plastic sometimes looks what it is rather than what it pretends to be.

The controls and dashboard are logical though, while the large saloon and hatchback boot and the estate's load space echo what went before.

Mazda's one-lever-does it all 'Karakuri' rear seat folding mechanism has also yet to be bettered – there's no messing about with seat belts and head rests to flatten the load floor.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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Savings end 30th September 2008.

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mpg**

Matiz 0.8 S
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to £5,595



Features: Dual airbags • ABS brakes • RDS radio/CD player
Engine immobiliser • Central locking • ISOFIX child seat restraint system
Power-assisted steering • 3 years full service package (£199 option).

Savings end 30th September 2008. Finance options & P/X available.

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Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost (£325). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The saving is against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2008. Price correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Matiz 0.8 S: Urban – 40.9 (6.9), Extra-urban – 67.3 (4.2), Combined – 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions 119g/km.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

UK's BEST-SELLING FAMILY HATCHBACKS carsforKent.co.uk

LOOKING for a car that does it all? Start shopping for a family hatchback; it seats five, can be crammed like a small van and represents a good balance of space, flexibility and economy... providing you don't go for the 'hot hatch' version. Family hatches dominate the UK top ten – all three of our recommendations are regulars – and the end product needs to be good to compete at all against talented opposition. Market clout helps, of course, but this trio deserves to be there on merit too – check out the profiles below...

FORD FOCUS



BRITAIN'S favourite car. Or is it? Some say it's number one through Ford's formidable market share. Fair point, but the Focus is also great to drive, practical, well-made and blessed with good engines. For second-hand buyers there is a fantastic choice of power – including the rapid ST – trim levels and body styles: a smart saloon and estate plus a coupé convertible. The car's popularity and ordinary looks are a weakness though and reason enough for some buyers to look elsewhere.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ASTRA



SUFFERS like the Focus from being a common sight, thanks to its lofty new car top-ten sales position. But nobody could accuse the Astra of being dreary looking; Renault Megane aside, it is the most sharply-styled family hatchback on sale. Vauxhall has also differentiated between the three-door model and the five-door workhorse. There is a longer wheelbase estate too. Engine options, including impressive Fiat-derived diesels, are some of the best in the business.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW GOLF



IT costs extra to get into a Golf, signalling the power of a more premium bonnet badge. Highly-regarded diesels also keep used prices up, while the GTI hot hatch lends glamour to the whole range. Interior quality and ambience is top-notch too and the driving experience is possibly best in class. That said, the Golf suffers from fairly dull styling and some buyers might be tempted by sexier and cheaper used rivals such as the Citroën C4 and Megane.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Prices for our class leading Fabia start from only £7,900 RRP. Minimum 30% deposit required.

Find out more about our sizzling summertime offers today!

The Roomster and Octavia now available with free upgrades...



Get a Roomster Scout for the price of a Roomster 2*.

Model shown is Roomster Scout 1.4 16v 85bhp at £13,005 RRP including optional metallic paint at £365 RRP.



Buy a 4x4 and get a Scout**.

Model shown is Octavia Scout 2.0 FSI 150bhp 4x4 at £18,645 RRP including optional metallic paint at £375 RRP.

Choose to go low.

Low carbon emissions. Low fuel consumption.



Also available as an estate.

Discover our most fuel efficient car ever. Opt for the outstanding performance of the new Fabia GreenLine, and get low 109g/km CO₂ emissions.

Solutions – 3 year, 10,000 miles per annum

Personal Contract Plan example for:

Fabia GreenLine 1.4 TDI PD 80bhp with DPF

35 monthly payments of	£109.00
Deposit (min 20%)	£3,233.89
Retail cash price	£11,495.00
Amount of credit	£8,261.11
Optional final payment	£5,500.00
Total amount payable	£12,733.89
Acceptance fee†	£125.00
Option to purchase fee††	£60.00
Excess mileage	5.64p per mile
Typical 6.2% APR	

This summer we're offering 1 year free insurance* or free servicing** for the first 3 years or 30,000 miles (whichever is soonest)** when purchased with Solutions, the flexible Personal Contract Plan from Skoda Finance.***

Taxi plan available – from the manufacturer of happy drivers



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The new 09 bikes have arrived...

A silver Harley-Davidson V-Rod Muscle cruiser motorcycle, shown from a side profile. It features a large V-twin engine, dual exhaust pipes, and a black seat.

The Harley-Davidson Motor Cycles logo, featuring the brand name in a stylized font within a shield-like border.

V-Rod Muscle
From

£12595

on the road

A black Buell 1125 CR sport motorcycle, shown from a side profile. It has a sleek, aerodynamic design with a black seat and red accents on the wheels.

The Buell American Motorcycles logo, featuring the name 'Buell' in a stylized font above 'AMERICAN MOTORCYCLES'.

1125 CR
From

£7995

on the road

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www.robinsonsfoundry.co.uk

The Buell American Motorcycles logo, featuring the name 'Buell' in a stylized font above 'AMERICAN MOTORCYCLES'.

The Harley-Davidson Motor Cycles logo, featuring the brand name in a stylized font within a shield-like border.

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Senior & General Appointments 40-42

Home Carers required!

£8.50 per hour for specialist contracts.
£7.25 to £9.25 for ad-hoc calls. NVQ 2 desirable.

Call: Ashton Macey Ltd
on 01732 523477
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Scott Care Ltd Home Care Services
is expanding its current service and has the following vacancies:

Care Workers

required to assist service users living in their own homes in Herne Bay, Canterbury, Whitstable and Faversham.

Early mornings, evenings and alternate weekends.
Full training will be given, free uniform supplied and mileage allowance. Car and mobile phone essential.

Phone: 01227 711011

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
www.scottcare.co.uk



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CALL: 01252 390990.

EMAIL: recruitme@thomsonlocal.com

WEB: www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution



Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6NB
Tele : 01843 593326

Applications are invited for the post[s] of

Instrumental Tutors (Music)

Required for September 2008, to support the Music Department in the delivery of tuition in the following areas:

- Guitar
- Woodwind

Applications are welcome from graduates of music or music education, and from candidates who hold other professional qualifications in music. Successful candidates will teach individual lessons or in small groups of 2/3 pupils. Lessons are 30 minute periods and successful candidates will be expected to address the individual needs of pupils.

Instructors will be expected to teach from beginner level and should develop and lead small ensembles for public performances.

Instructors will be employed on a peripatetic basis, meeting demand as required.

CVs and letters of application by post to the address above

FAO: Jennifer Spooner HR Manager or via
jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

You should state the post you are applying for, your principal instrument and your suitability for such a post.

Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 29th August 2008

Interviews held: beginning of September 2008



Royal School of Military Engineering (Chatham) Divisional Managers

Salary circa £50,000 + PRP

Today whether it is areas of conflict or natural disaster the skills and professional expertise of the Royal Engineers are in great demand. Whether constructing a tented camp in Basra or rebuilding the utilities in the Balkans the Royal Engineers have demonstrated that they are a highly proficient team with a wide range of professional trade skills. Although they are soldiers first and foremost they are also highly skilled combat engineers and tradesmen.

Currently we are looking for three Divisional Managers to lead the following curriculum areas at the school:

- **Engineering Division** – Responsibility for the overall performance of the mechanical and engineering services faculties.
- **Construction Division** – Responsibility for the overall performance of the building and design faculties.
- **Professional Engineer Division** – Responsibility for the higher education courses to MSC in civil engineering and in electrical & mechanical engineering. This post carries a teaching commitment and the person appointed would need to be a chartered civil engineer.

Your role will be to work collaboratively with the military to ensure that the training provided for the soldiers is of the highest quality and meets the full requirements of the Ministry of Defence.

Ideally qualified to degree level or equivalent you will have significant management experience in training and development preferably within the fields of construction or engineering. Efficiency and organisational skills are critical as well as the ability to lead a large team of proficient instructors and trainers while building sound working relationships at all levels.

Applicants should be aware that the RSME is currently pursuing a partnering arrangement with the private sector organisation Holdfast as part of the Government Public Private Sector partner initiative. Mid-Kent College is part of the Holdfast Group and will have the responsibility for providing the training at the RSME when the contract is signed. Successful applicants will be employed by Mid-Kent College to work at the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine)
Personnel Manager, Iain Johnston 01634 884601
Personnel Officer, Marie Cook 01634 884736

Informal enquiries are very welcome, please telephone:

Closing date Friday 15 August. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 2 September 2008



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunity employer



The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



MID-KENT COLLEGE
an associate college of the UNIVERSITY OF KENT



Operating within the well established Project 15 and Westwood programmes, the Complex Needs Unit is an innovative alternative curriculum project for KS4 students with complex needs, involving an engaging and broad curriculum a new slant on curriculum delivery. The unit is based on the 'Three Men in a Boat' model which has been successfully piloted in other parts of the county.

Committed to high quality and genuinely imaginative education, the Complex Needs Units at Project 15 and Westwood are looking for teachers to join an exciting creative staff team.

Teachers (Unqualified Tutor Scale)

£14,751 - £23,331

Temporary contract for 3 years

1x - based at Westwood, Thanet

CFE/08/0361

1 x based at Project 15, Thanet

CFE/08/0362

Applicants for all posts will have to provide evidence of effective working with disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to curriculum innovation.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.

Closing date: Midday, 26 August 2008.



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To advertise in this section  **01303 817040**

Visitor Services and Events Manager

Bedgebury

£20,242 - £22,909 plus benefits

Three year fixed term appointment (full time) with possibility of extension or conversion to permanency although there is no guarantee.

You'll provide clear leadership for the Visitor Services team at Bedgebury and ensure that all visitors receive the highest level of customer care. Working with the Attractions Manager and other staff, you'll create a visitor service and events programme that fulfills the business objectives of Bedgebury. You'll also plan and manage cost effective budgets and provide regular reports on financial and visitor targets. Acting as Site Manager as part of a rota system, you'll work every other weekend.

Ideally educated to degree level, you'll have experience in the tourism/leisure/visitor attraction industry at a management level.

To apply, visit our website at the address below or email recruitment@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Alternatively, write to Amy Cornelius, HR Services, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT. Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form. Please quote ref: HR89/77. No recruitment agencies please. Closing date: 25 August 2008.

The Forestry Commission is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all age groups and sectors of the community.



www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

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Independent Speech & Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist for Education

We require Independent therapists to join our multi-disciplinary pool of professionals. Applicants will be accredited by BACP and/or UKCP registered and be qualified to a minimum of diploma level and knowledge of working with clients with Learning Difficulties beneficial.

Please contact Personnel Department for an application form/informal chat: **Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762**

Or email: jackie.brandon@ethelberthomes.co.uk

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Full Time Dental Nurse

Required for Sittingbourne practice. It would be possible for training to be given to right applicant.

Apply in writing with full CV to **Maira Lupin, 20 London Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1NA**

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Accounting Technicians

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum (pro rata for part time or term time)

Full time, part time and term time considered
Clover House, Whitstable

An exciting opportunity to be part of the Trading & Contract Management Unit within CFE Finance has arisen with a number of vacancies for Accounting Technicians.

You will have good communication, organisational and IT skills to support schools via the provision of contracted financial support packages. You will be responsible for delivering a range of monitoring and budget planning support, as well as the annual closing of accounts and the provision of generic financial advice and guidance to both Kent and Medway schools.

A knowledge of SIMS FMS6 accounting package would be beneficial. The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is also required.

Ref: CFE/o8/0376

Closing date: Midday, 12th September 2008.

Interview date: w/c 29th September 2008.

Functional Skills Tutors

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum
East and West Kent

KEY Training Services deliver an exciting range of innovative training programmes to people aged 14-upwards and is the largest work-based training provider in Kent.

As a Functional Skills Tutor your responsibilities will include the team teaching of effective and high quality Basic, Key Skills and Job Search training, across a range of ability groups.

You will have the opportunity to design and produce relevant training materials and to plan challenging and inspirational training. KEY are forward thinking in their approach to Key Skills/Skills for Life qualifications and delivery will take place in both formal and informal learning environments to both young people and adults.

Ideally, you will need to be qualified to either Literacy or Numeracy Level 4, with a teaching qualification or teaching experience. KEY provides excellent opportunities for professional and personal development.

You will be required to work at more than one training centre in the area in which you are based, so the ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. Ref: CMY/o8/0194
Closing date: Midday, 22nd August 2008.

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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

International Manager 08/111

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Head of Faculty Higher Education 08/112

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum

Quality and Innovation Manager 08/113

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £36,365 per annum

Section Manager Dental, Nursing, Social Care & Counselling 06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Lecturer Teacher Education 08/114

7.4 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Public Services S/PS

Key Skills: Application of Number and ICT within Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care S/KS

Drama Teachers to teach on vocational

BTEC Diploma courses in Performing Arts levels 1 - 3. S/Drama

Performing Arts - to teach on vocational BTEC Diploma courses

levels 1 - 3 S/PA

Theatre Production Arts - to teach: Scenic Design, Costume Design,

Lighting Design, Stage Management, S/TP

HR Advisors 08/119

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Pensions & Benefits Clerk 08/118

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

HR Administrator 08/121

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

International Administrator 08/115

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Train to Gain Administrator 08/116

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Project Co-ordinator - College Redevelopment 08/117

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Supply Trainer Demonstrator with skills in one or more

Stage Craft techniques: Props, Set Construction, Stage Lighting

and Sound S/TD

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the

Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)

quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Thursday 21 August 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme



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GSE GROUP

RECEPTIONIST

The GSE Group are the leading single source construction company in the South East.

We require an enthusiastic, well presented, second Receptionist to greet visitors and take incoming calls in a professional manner.

The successful candidate will be committed to performing their role to a high standard and have a flexible approach to their work, which will include some administrative duties.

Hours of work are 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For an application form or to submit your CV, contact Mrs. Sue Barlow, GSE Group, Joshua House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford TN24 0GR or 01233 506337 or sue.barlow@gse-group.com.

Closing date is 29th August 2008.

Clifton Recycling is a fast-growing waste management and processing company which is seeking a

Business Development Executive

The ideal candidate must be a team player with a proven ability in sales and the ability to manage clients on an ongoing basis; be commercially astute and financially numerate. Self-motivation, hard work and a strong desire to succeed are essential. You will be provided with training and support in this respect.

The role is office based, although client visits may be necessary.

Send your CV along with a short covering letter to:

Alan Clifton-Holt,
Haguelands Farm,
Romney Marsh,
Kent TN29 0JR or by email to:
alan@aaciflton.ltd.uk



Connexions Services - Commissioning and Monitoring

Project Co-ordinator

Starting salary £40,705, with progression through contribution related pay to £47,675 per annum
Sessions House, Maidstone

This is an exciting opportunity to co-ordinate the commissioning of Connexions Services within Kent. You will monitor the current service specification until April 2010 and plan and commission Connexions Services beyond that date in accordance with the Kent Children's Trust Commissioning Framework and EU legislation for tendering.

Working closely with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway, as well as 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships, schools, voluntary sector and senior officers in the Children Families & Education and Communities Directorates, you will have excellent communication skills and experience of managing contracts.

Degree qualified or equivalent, you will also possess experience in services for children and young people with substantial knowledge of data interpretation and manipulation to meet monitoring requirements.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/08/0354.

Closing date: Midday, 22 August 2008.



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Eastern and Coastal Kent

Better health Better care Better value

What better reasons for joining a team with ambition?

With a budget of just over £1 bn and a community of 710,000 people to serve, we aspire to deliver better health, value and care for all as this is what drives us to meet the 11 competencies world class commissioning demands.

But to do this, we need a strong, competent, world class team, which is where you come in. We're looking for people to help us realise our vision:

To help people live longer, healthier lives, to reduce health inequalities dramatically, and provide better care for all. Ultimately, we want to provide a truly personal and flexible service to our community. Only by achieving these objectives shall we become a world class commissioning organisation.

Each role will require you to stretch your understanding, and demonstrate a strong knowledge in the specific area of the business.

Overall, our journey to become a world class commissioning organisation is a great opportunity to take your career to the next level. So join the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and be recognised as the leaders of the NHS, locally.

Lead Commissioner:

Community Equipment & Transport	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Programme Support Manager	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa

Provider Development:

Estates Development Manager x 2	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Estates Development Officer	Band 5 £20,225 - £26,123 pa
Estates Administrator x 2	Band 4 £17,316 - £20,818 pa
Provider Development Manager	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
Provider Development Facilitator	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Provider Development Officer	Band 4 £17,316 - £20,818 pa
Provider Development Assistant	Band 3 £14,834 - £17,732 pa

Clinical Directorate:

Clinical Quality Manager x 2	Band 7 £29,091 - £38,352 pa
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Citizen Engagement and Communications:

"Health Matters" Group co-ordinator	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Equality and Diversity Officer	Band 6 £24,103 - £32,653 pa

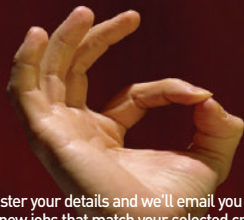
For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk
Closing date for all posts: 22 August 2008.

For other job opportunities visit our website
www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk

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Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.
Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk



The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP.

SALES MANAGER

Up to £28,000 per annum (Full-time)

Our training company require a highly motivated person to recruit individuals and employers onto a range of programmes on offer. You must be comfortable prospecting, making cold calls, and committed to gaining new clients and working in a team.

BASIC SKILLS TUTOR

£18,500 to £24,500 per annum

Due to expansion, Amac require qualified skills for Life tutors on a part time or sessional basis. You must be qualified at level 4 specialist (or working towards).

If you are interested please telephone 01227 831840 or email info@amacsports.co.uk for an application pack.

Closing date
22nd August 2008



34 Dumpton Park Drive
Broadstairs, Kent
CT10 1BY

All appointments
are subject to a
CRB check

All shortlisted
applicants will be
expected to visit
the school before
interview.

Bradstow School
is an equal
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BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – EDUCATION

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - £12,197 per annum
Term time only

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Mon-Fri - £10,007 per annum
Term time only

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE

£13,336 plus 10% unsocial hours allowance - 41 hours per week
Afternoon/evening shifts & weekends - Term time only

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE

£10,743 plus 10% unsocial hours allowance - 36.5 hours per week
(including split shifts and weekends) - Term time only

Working as part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekend

DOMESTIC ASSISTANT - EVENINGS

To undertake general cleaning duties and maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene at Bradstow School.

Term Time Only
15 hours per week, Mon-Fri, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
£3,996 per annum

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

Pay Award Pending

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

Applications should be received no later than
12 noon, Friday 29th August 2008.



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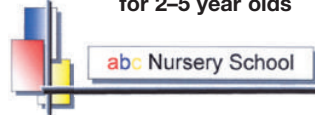
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CRUISING is said to be the fastest growing sector in UK travel with more than 1.5 million UK residents expected to board a ship this year – more than double the number from 10 years ago.

Now there's the opportunity to discover possible benefits of this holiday option at the first ever Get Cruising Show.

It will take place in the Corn Exchange in The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells on September 7 from 11am until 3pm. There will be 25 different cruise brands present.

With more cruises heading out of Dover next year more people are expected to choose the convenience of international travel from the South East coast.

UK tax breaks attract research businesses

BRITAIN is highly attractive for research and development activities according to a detailed study of tax costs in 35 cities in 10 countries around the world conducted by KPMG International.

Top of the table was the Netherlands, followed by Canada, with UK in third place. Brian Jackson, partner and head of tax at KPMG in Gatwick, which covers Kent, said: "It is very encouraging to see the UK ranked so much ahead of key European and global competitors."

"The R&D tax incentives available to businesses in this country are indeed very attractive."

Open your in-box to customers' messages

SMALL businesses can allow their customers to text message them thanks to a useful piece of technology.

SMS messages sent to local numbers can be converted into emails and sent directly into the in-box of the business.

Previously, inbound text messaging services were the preserve of large companies, says software developers FAB Enterprises & Innovations.

It is offering to register local numbers to allow messages to be converted. For more details visit www.fabit.com.

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Expert advice on the credit crunch. See the business channel

Unlock your potential with finance scheme

A VITAL financial resource for small firms is being overlooked, according to a recent report.

Two out of every three UK accountants say the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme is an attractive form of finance for business clients – but clients don't use it enough, according to an independent study.

In fact, the problem is not confined to just the clients says Venture Finance, which has an office in Canterbury – on a regional basis, half of accountants surveyed throughout London and the South were actually unaware of the scheme.

The scheme provides guarantees against loans of up to £250,000 for companies with minimal business assets or a lack of security, making it a vital resource for many businesses. In April the Government announced major changes to the rules.

It made the scheme open to many more businesses by increasing the turnover level up to £5.6 million, with Chancellor Alastair Darling also announcing a 60 per cent increase in scheme funding.

Despite these changes which should work to the benefit of UK businesses, it seems that there is a still a huge number unaware of it, suggesting that there is still has a lot of work to let people it's available.

Tim Bourner, business development manager of Venture Finance in Canterbury, said: "As the first independent invoice financier to be authorised as a lender of the scheme, we have witnessed first hand the positive impact this injection of funds can have on a company."

"Given the benefits it can give, and the recent improvements that have been introduced, it's disappointing that so many still don't know about it."

"Nearly a fifth of the accountants we spoke to are already recommending the scheme and it would be great to see this figure grow."

"As one of the key sources of financial advice to businesses there is a real opportunity for accountants to play an important role in providing unbiased guidance on funding options and support throughout

■ BY TONY PATEY

the scheme application process."

Venture Finance is an award-winning invoice financier, which has helped thousands of clients across the UK, from start-ups to businesses in the £200m turnover bracket.

Basically, the scheme is for small to medium-sized enterprises, which need funds but can't get a conventional loan because they don't have assets to offer as security.

The Small Firms Loan Guarantee provides lenders with a government guarantee against default in certain circumstances.

The scheme is a joint venture between the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and a number of participating lenders.



SECURITY: Loan Guarantee Scheme is another way to raise cash

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Twenty20 World Cup perfect showcase for ladies

Picture: ADY KERRY



WAY FORWARD: Edwards feels Twenty20 cricket will help the women's game grow

KENT and England captain Charlotte Edwards believes the global success of Twenty20 cricket can help increase the profile of the women's game and encourage more girls into the sport.

The 28-year-old, who has led England to back-to-back Ashes victories, will captain her side in the inaugural women's Twenty20 World Cup next summer, with the final played before the men's showpiece at Lord's.

If they could reach the final it would, according to Edwards, allow the England players to showcase their skills in front of millions of fans.

She said: "It is a dream come true for us really as it is a great time to

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

showcase the women's game on a global scale. We are excited to think that maybe we could get to a semi-final and then the final and play before the men's game, it would be a great occasion for everyone.

"We have a lot to play for before then, but ultimately that is what we are all playing towards."

"Twenty20 has really caught on and it is the question I am asked most about at the moment, along with the Indian Premier League.

"Hopefully they will have a women's IPL so I won't have to worry about money for the rest of my life, but it is exciting times in cricket at the moment for men and women."

"Next year with the Twenty20 World Cup being here is brilliant and hopefully that money will come streaming in."

The England team, which also includes Kent players Lydia Greenway and Lynsey Askew, comprehensively won the first of five One-Day Internationals against South Africa at the St Lawrence Ground on Wednesday. Edwards took 2-10 to help put England 2-0 up in the series as South Africa were thrashed by 225 runs at Lord's on Friday.

England youth lose battle with weather

RAIN disrupted both England under-19 internationals against New Zealand played at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury.

The hosts got off to a good start in the best-of-five match series, winning the first match by six wickets on Friday.

The players went off three times for rain and once for bad light, but captain Tom Westley hit an unbeaten 46 to see England home with seven balls to spare.

In the second game a day later only 44 overs were possible, with England on 231-8 when play was washed out.

James Goodman, the only Kent youngster in the 14-man squad, missed out on selection for both matches.

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England cricket captain Charlotte Edwards talks about the impact of Twenty20

ECB's sticky wicket

KENT captain Rob Key has criticised the England and Wales Cricket Board's pitch panel system after they took no action against Durham on Friday.

The rain affected County Championship match finished early on the third day, with 40 wickets falling for just 465 runs.

The ECB convened a pitch panel to inspect the wicket, but after interviewing the umpires and both captains they decided to take no action.

Key said: "I don't expect [the ECB] to change their decision."

"I expect them to hopefully learn from it, I don't think this panel is the way forward."

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: IOR KIRCO

DAY OF DESTINY: Kent have not contested a Lord's final since 1998 and captain Rob Key (above) is hoping for victory in Saturday's game against rivals Essex

Key knows importance of place in Lord's final

CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

KENT will attempt to put the disappointment of last month's Twenty20 finals defeat behind them when they contest their first Lord's final in 11 years on Saturday.

The Spitfires play Essex Eagles at the home of cricket for the 50-over Friends Provident Trophy.

It is the first time Kent have contested a Lord's final since losing to Surrey in the 1998 Benson & Hedges Cup.

It will also be the first time captain Rob Key has played in a Lord's final after 10 years at Kent and he believes the long wait heightens the importance for the county.

He said: "I think it does mean more. The first time around you don't quite know what to expect. We would rather get on with the game but you have quite a lot of build-up."

"Along with the Twenty20 finals day it's the biggest day of the year. I don't think many of our side have played in a Lord's final, it's quite a special time."

The prospect of making the final seemed dis-

tant at the beginning of the competition as Kent lost their first two matches in the group stage.

Even qualifying for the quarter-finals looked unlikely at that stage, but Key's side reeled off five successive wins to take them through to the last eight.

Confidence

The Spitfires skipper picked out Justin Kemp's 68 from 79 balls against Sussex as the turning point which began their charge to the final.

He said: "We didn't know what was going on at the start, on paper we knew we were a good side so it was a bit worrying."

"I think Justin Kemp's innings against Sussex, which got us home for our first win, was a big moment and then we went straight to the Oval and beat Surrey, that's when we started to believe how good we were."

"No matter how good the team is you do lose confidence with defeats, but Justin turned it round pretty quickly for us."

Tight bowling at the death saw Kent past Somerset at Beckenham to reach the last four.

Martin van Jaarsveld, who has been in terrific form this season, helped Kent dominate the semi-final at Durham. The South African hit 122 not out as the defending champions were comfortably beaten by 84 runs.

Saturday's game will be the sixth time Kent have met Essex this season. The Spitfires have the edge with three wins to two, but the final is predicted to be a close affair.

They last met at the Rose Bowl on Twenty20 finals day last month, with Kent winning by 14 runs.

Demand for tickets at the St Lawrence Ground was high when they went on sale last month, with the Spitfires applying for an extra allocation after selling the initial batch of 4,000.

• For all the latest from Lord's, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk on Saturday.

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk

Ashby rues late start in rebuilding process

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

MARGATE manager Barry Ashby believes the delay in his appointment has caused the club to miss out on several transfer targets this summer.

Ashby and his assistant Paul Smith were given the Hartsdown Park job in May, a month after the end of the season.

With many of last season's squad departing before the duo got the job, the former Gillingham team-mates have mounted a major reconstruction ahead of Saturday's Ryman Premier kick-off.

Important

Ashby said: "We maybe got the job two or three weeks late. By the time we came in a lot of the other clubs were busy signing players so that's the only real disappointment so far.

"We have really worked our socks off to get the players into the club we really want.

"Nearly 70 per cent hasn't come off for us, but the players we have brought in have been different class, really good quality."

Gate begin the new campaign away to Carshalton Athletic, who only avoided relegation by goal difference last season.

It will be important to get off to a good start, with potentially tricky games against Hendon followed by newly promoted pair Canvey Island and Dover Athletic in



STOPPER: Goalkeeper Scott Chalmers-Stevens is one of the few players from last year's squad to remain at the club

the first month of the season.

Despite the arrival of several new faces, the task of rebuilding is likely to continue in the early part of the season.

He said: "Maybe it's going to take a bit of time, but we want to bring in the right people. We need to make sure mentally they are

strong and they are going to improve.

It's going to be a hell of a year, we have got a lot of young players, but we are looking to bring in some more experience as well.

"Hopefully we are a club on the way up, we have got to wait and see."

• Email sport@kosmedia.co.uk

Ward is still working his magic on the Rams

FOOTBALL

WHAT will Ramsgate do for an encore in 2008/09?

The question has been posed for the past four summers, but on every occasion Jim Ward has managed to pluck a rabbit from a hat.

Few outside Southwood expected Ramsgate to win the Kent League in 2004/05. Fewer still thought they would follow that with the Ryman Division One South title the following year.

Consolidation with a ninth-place finish in the Premier Division during 2007/08 was an achievement in itself.

Once again Ramsgate defied expectations last season, winning the Ryman League Cup and eclipsing their neighbours Margate by finishing fifth and making the play-offs – where a furiously contested penalty condemned them to a semi-final defeat at Staines.

The problem with this perennial over-achieving is that richer clubs will always covet Ramsgate's best players.

Olly Schultz, Dean Hill and Sam Jones have all been tempted to Dover, though Ward has done well to hang on to the likes of



NEW BOY: Ramsgate's Ben Brown (in red)

Stuart Vahid and Nick Davis.

The return of prolific striker Mo Takaloo from Maidstone is a coup, while Jack Delo and Ben Brown join from Herne Bay and left-back Joe Dowley has signed from Sittingbourne.

Takaloo scored twice as Ramsgate beat Hungerford 2-1 in their final pre-season friendly last weekend, but an altogether stiffer test awaits the Rams at Southwood on Saturday.

Ward's side kick-off their league campaign by hosting AFC Hornchurch, another of last season's play-off losers.

Hornchurch's attack will be spearheaded by Stefan Ball, yet another Southwood graduate.

Street tournament hits right note with young

LEISURE

A PIONEERING event has been held at Hartsdown Leisure Centre in Margate.

The Thanet Street Sports Tournament was held as part of the Summer Blast 2008 event and was organised by Thanet District Council's sports development team, Pie Factory Music and Pipeline Youth, with additional support from Thanet Leisureforce.

The concept was ambitious: to bring sport and music together to provide a musical background to sports competitions, though music and sport have often been linked, with soundtracks often used as backdrops in sports such as gymnastics and synchronised swimming.

There was expert commentary from the sports development team and moral support from the Trinity cheerleaders, plus more than 100 young people who watched proceedings from the grandstand seating.

The event was held at Hartsdown, where a steel sports cage was used for two versus two basketball and football tournaments.

Players were encouraged to show individual flair and skill by



SLAM DUNK: Joshua Berthoux and Ben Giles (centre pair) who won the basketball

using specially adapted rules.

The basketball event was won by Margate duo Joshua Berthoux and Ben Giles, both 16.

Another Margate pairing, Neil Barnett and Chris Gregg, also both 16, won the football.

Thanet District Council's Sports Development Officer, Martyn Cassell, said: "This was the first time we had tried this format of blending together music and sport.

"These are two very important parts of youth culture and the tournament went down very well. It is essential we look for more examples of this type to work with our young people."

LISA DOBRISKEY'S
OLYMPIC
Diary

Beijing 2008
Olympic rings logo

Middle distance runner Lisa Dobriskey is competing in the Olympic 1500m later this month. Throughout the next fortnight the Ashford-born athlete will be sending exclusive regular updates from Team GB...

Friday, August 8

THINGS are starting to brighten up in every sense of the word. The weather has improved after yesterday's typhoon, I slept well last night and today is my rest day and the start of the Games.

My coach arrived here yesterday and I've spent most of the day with him. It does feel strange knowing the Olympics are almost starting and I'm not going to be there for another week.

Saturday, August 9

I HAD my final big track session this morning and I'm pleased to say it went really well. The weather has picked up now and it was 40 degrees on the track and very humid so perfect preparation for Beijing.

We watched the opening ceremony here last night and it was strange seeing everything start and still being so far away.

The hotel staff made a huge cake to share with all those left behind so we had a little party of our own. It was exciting seeing it all and knowing I'll be there soon, although it's also a bit nerve-wracking.

I've been out into the centre of Macau this afternoon to try and stay in the heat and humidity to acclimatise.

It was nice to have a look around, as although I compete and train in lots of places I rarely see anything other than the hotel and the track.

Sunday, August 10

I HAD a long run this morning which went well although I struggled with the humidity slightly and the heat was quite energy sapping. I have had physio and a massage this afternoon and the rest of the day has been spent relaxing by reading and watching the Olympics on TV.

A lot of the team leave for Beijing tomorrow morning and my roommate leaves on Tuesday, so I imagine things will start to feel a bit lonely.

I'm training twice tomorrow so have got a slightly more eventful day to look forward to.

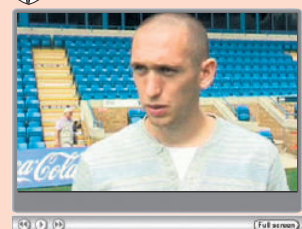
Lisa x

• If you would like to leave Lisa a good luck message during the Olympics, email sports@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Gills Andrew Crofts and John Nutter on their hopes for the new season

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